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Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015 High 15°C /Low 2°C Take an umbrella

WOULD YOU EAT A CRICKET? (FOR PROTEIN) PAGE 21

Paige Reid gets a chunk of hair cut off at Marc Anthony Downtown Salon Wednesday in support of Angel Hair for Kids, which provides wigs for kids who've lost hair due to medical circumstances. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

'Social media ... saved my life'

MENTAL HEALTH

Outpouring of online support moves Toronto man to seek help

Andrew Parker was on the verge of killing himself less than a month ago, when a simple post on social media saved his life.

On March 17, the 34-year-old Toronto-based film critic, who has struggled with anxiety since childhood and was diagnosed with clinical depression at 19, uploaded a suicide note to his personal blog. The post, titled "The End of All Things," detailed Parker's lifelong mental health struggles and conveyed one message: He wanted to die.

Within minutes of posting a link to the entry on his Twitter account, Parker was inundated with messages from hundreds of people, urging him to get help. The overwhelming response — mostly from people he'd never met — pushed Parker to seek help.

"Social media, those people, saved my life. I would not have sought help if I had not seen those messages. That was more than I could have asked for," Parker told Torstar News Service Wednesday, the same day he was released from Mount Sinai Hospital after a three-week stay.

Negative messages in social media have been viewed as a contributing factor in the tragic deaths of Amanda Todd and Rehtaeh Parsons, teenage girls from B.C. and Nova Scotia, respectively, who both committed suicide after being cyberbullied.

But Parker, who has previously received threats over the Internet because of his movie reviews, believes social media can also do a lot of good.

"We talk a lot about how social media is sort of like a no-man's land, gang mentality. That's definitely there; I know people that have had their lives irreparably damaged because of social media, but at the same time it can be a force for good," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Andrew Parker
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

B.C. sumo wrestler makes it big in Japan. Page 18

PARKING

Tickets trickle, but fines flourish

Motorists in Toronto were issued about 132,000 fewer parking tickets last year but — thanks to tough new rules — they paid $15.1 million more in fines.

Parking enforcement officers, police officers and municipal law enforcement officers issued 2,498,660 tickets, a 5 per cent drop from 2,630,402 issued the previous year, according to a report discussed Wednesday by the government management committee.

The number of tickets written has dropped steadily from 2.9 million in 2008, except for a slight uptick in 2011.

The reasons for last year's drop, city staff say, include increased fines prompting greater compliance with parking rules; a new rule that gives motorists a 10-minute grace period after expiration at "pay-and-display" meters; and officers taking time away from regular ticketing to oversee towing of vehicles.

Total ticket revenue last year jumped to $104,954,929 from $89,838,566.

One statistic that city staff cannot explain is that last year, 556 payments were received for tickets issued in 1989. Staff were unable to say why so many 25-year-old fines were suddenly cleared, speculating that some were mandatory payments before old dormant licence plates could be reactivated.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The bell tolls for frustrated cyclist

TRANSPORTATION

Forgotten fine for not having a bell leads to suspension of driver's licence

The sun was shining, the birds were singing, and the Toronto Police cycling dragnets were out in force.

So it was that on a lovely April day in 2010, Randi Beers incurred a $110 ticket for not having a bike bell. Through time, human error, and bureaucratic sclerosis, that fine would nearly double by 2015 and jeopardize her driver's licence and credit rating.

She thinks her experience reveals a glitch in the justice system that may have affected others.

The trouble started in early spring, soon after Beers had hauled her bike out of storage.

"It was one of the first days that it was warm enough to just go for a joyride," she said.

Pedalling southbound on Yonge Street near the Eaton Centre, she was stopped by a cluster of cops looking for springtime cycling scofflaws.

"It was like, literally, a bike bell blitz," Beers said.

One officer dinged her with a $110 fine but said she could avoid paying if she showed a bell in court. So Beers went straight to Kensington Market, where she bought a "pink plaid number" from a cycling store, hoping to flaunt it for a judge, she recently wrote in NOW Magazine.

As the summer wore on, the whole incident slipped her mind. On Sept. 1, she moved from an apartment near Dundas and Bloor streets to another place nearby, and forgot to tell the courts.

$110

Randi Beers' original fine, which eventually went up to $185.

It came as a bit of a shock, then, when she received a phone call from a collection agency in January, informing her that her debt was still alive and well; had grown, in fact. Beers now owed $185.

As it turned out, she had been convicted in absentia in 2011.

And since she had subsequently defaulted on her fine, City of Toronto Court Services had slapped two demerit points on her driver's licence, which had also been suspended.

If she wanted to challenge the ruling, a court clerk told her, she would have to do so in person. That would have been okay, except that Beers now lives in the Northwest Territories, where she edits a weekly newspaper.

So she paid the fine and fixed the issues with her licence. "As far as I'm concerned, I should be totally kosher with MTO," Beers said.

But she's frustrated that no one associated with the courts could tell her how the unpaid fine would affect her credit rating.

"That really upset me," she said, "that the court system can do something that will cause consequences but not know or be able to speak to what the consequences will be."

Beers also thinks there should be a way of sending people their court dates electronically or by phone, so these things don't get lost in the mail.

She also realizes that she should have ensured the court had her address back in 2010.

Part of her lesson, however, remains unlearned. Her bike in Yellowknife, which she can only use for three months a year, does not have a bell.

She laughs at this.

"I don't know if you have to have a bike bell in NWT."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

That really upset me. That the court system can do something that will cause consequences, but not know or be able to speak to what the consequences will be.

Randi Beers

Randi Beers believes a glitch in the justice system led to her losing her licence due to a 2010 fine for not having a bell on her bike. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Flora Terah has turned the launch event for her new book, Life Beyond Pain, into a memorial for the victims of last week's terrorist attack at a Kenyan university. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

MEMORIAL

Author mourns Kenya terror victims

A week later, images and voices of crying students still play vividly in Flora Terah's mind.

"I just couldn't breathe," Terah said, describing her state after news broke of a terrorist attack at Garissa University in Kenya last Thursday.

Gunmen stormed the school, killing 147 people and injuring more than 70. Al-Shabaab, believed to be an offshoot of al-Qaida , claimed responsibility.

Terah, a human rights activist, fled Kenya in 2008 after being abducted and tortured for her political ambitions, she said. She ran for a parliamentary seat in the 2007 elections, and the ensuing violence saw her 19-year old son murdered.

"I can't even imagine the hopelessness of those mothers looking for their kids," she said, adding that psychological support will be a huge part of coping with the aftermath of the attack.

Terah was already in preparations to launch her new book, Life Beyond Pain, Thursday at city hall. As soon as she heard about the attack, she chose to turn the event into a memorial.

GILBERT NGABO/METRO

BOOK IN BRIEF

Terah's book, Life Beyond Pain, is an autobiography about her "tough journey to hell and back," from the tragic loss of her son in Kenya to fighting with anxiety and depression. The book details the culture shock she experienced upon arrival in Canada and makes a case for the defence of women's rights.

Ford debuts as the new face of Bad Boy

ADVERTISING

Former mayor a good fit for furniture chain: Prof

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

This ad, seen in the Wednesday edition of the Toronto Star, is running in papers through the end of the week, according to Bad Boy Furniture. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

Who's surprised to see Rob Ford shops at Bad Boy?

Nooobody.

The former mayor appears in a new advertisement for Bad Boy Furniture, sitting on a big leather reclining couch and smiling with staff.

"He came into the store, he bought something," said Bad Boy CEO Blayne Lastman. "He was a terrific Bad Boy customer. We were delighted to have him."

The store has experience with former mayors, he pointed out. His father, ex-mayor Mel Lastman, founded the chain.

Blayne Lastman told Metro that Ford wasn't paid for the ad.

"He negotiated a great deal, as do our other customers, and after it was over, my general manager asked him if we could use (the photos) in an ad and he said, 'No problem,'" he said.

So far, the public reception to the ad has been "fantastic," Lastman said.

To determine whether getting into bed with the infamous councillor is a good strategy for the furniture company, Seneca College marketing professor Anthony Kalamut said one has to consider the Bad Boy brand and Mel Lastman's legacy as face of the chain.

According to Kalamut, Ford's a good fit and the manager who asked to use Ford's pictures in an ad has good marketing sense, especially since Ford is guaranteed to get people talking.

Ford's bad-boy mayoral image is not at odds with Bad Boy's traditional mascot, the prisoner in black-and-white stripes, Kalamut noted.

"Historically the entire brand was based around Mel Lastman's bad-boy image and when he was mayor, there was always that ribbing that goes along with it — although Mel Lastman was hardly Rob Ford," he said.

Ford's everyman persona is also a good fit with the Bad Boy's bargain-centric brand, Kalamut added.

EDUCATION

Union warns of strikes at high schools

Strikes could begin at some Ontario high schools later this month as frustrations mount in bargaining, the teachers' union warned Wednesday.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation is threatening to withdraw services at seven school boards: Peel, Durham, Halton, Ottawa-Carleton, Waterloo, Rainbow in Sudbury and Lakehead in Thunder Bay.

There is a "high level of frustration" at the table in Durham, so the union has singled it out as the first board that could see a strike as early as April 20.

> **We knew the bargaining was going to be tough, but we're committed to staying.**
> Premier Kathleen Wynne

"We really have announced that we're serious about this," said union president Paul Elliott. "We believe you should be serious about this also."

Premier Kathleen Wynne urged teachers to stay at the bargaining table.

"Negotiations are always tough and they're particularly tough in an environment where there are constrained finances," Wynne said.

This is the first round of negotiations with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation since the province brought in a new bargaining system, with both local and provincial talks.

The negotiations are also taking place as Ontario tries to eliminate a $10.9-billion deficit by the Liberal government's self-imposed deadline of 2017-18.

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METRO EXPLAINS

What you can and are not allowed to sell at the Pan Am games

Torontonians with an entrepreneurial spirit can make some money off the influx of people coming to city for the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games – whether you plan to stay in town or not.

Although according to Games organizers, "without a partnership with TO2015, leveraging the Games for commercial gain is not permitted."

Here's what you can, and can't do.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS METRO

1. PUT YOUR PLACE UP FOR RENT

Airbnb has been emailing Torontonian users and encouraging them to become hosts during the Games. The company is organizing several information sessions on how to host — a strategy the company often uses in advance of major events.

"The Pan Am Games is one more marquee event where Airbnb can add elastic accommodation capacity to a world class city," said Aaron Zifkin, country manager for Canada, in an email.

To list, go to Airbnb.ca and follow the steps. If you live in a condo, Airbnb says it's best to check your board's regulations to make sure it's okay.

2. BECOME AN UBER DRIVER

You can make some cash shuttling tourists around. If you have a vehicle that's in good shape and can pass a background check you can drive for UberX on your own time.

"We certainly do expect an increase in both driver partner sign-up and demand as we get closer to the 2015 Pan and Parapan Games this summer," said Uber Canada spokeswoman Susie Heath.

3. RENT OUT YOUR PARKING SPACE

You can put up a sign on your lawn and rent your parking space to anyone driving by. Or, you can take the high-tech route and list your parking spot on whereipark.com, an online marketplace for Toronto parking spots.

The site matches people with parking to sell with those in search of a parking spot. The only catch is you must lease your spot a month at a time.

Jeremy Zuker, co-founder of the new site, said people are already looking for Pam Am-related parking spaces. The average price outside of Pan Am season is $150 a month but it depends on location.

4. SELL UNOFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

Selling knock-off merchandise for the games is forbidden.

The event's guidelines make it clear that TO2015 is prepared to "protect its brand and take legal action if necessary.

"TO2015 will monitor the areas outside our venues to ensure there is no unauthorized sale of merchandise," said a spokeswoman.

5. SELL YOUR TICKETS

Selling your tickets for a profit — or scalping — is not allowed, and TO2015 will monitor the areas outside venues to ensure there is no unauthorized sale of tickets. There is an extensive list of terms and conditions attached to ticket sales that says you can't sell your ticket online or to someone you don't know.

The terms and conditions for TO2105 tickets state anyone who buys a ticket from another person must be prepared to "give a full explanation as to how, from whom (including full contact details) and from where his/her ticket(s) have been obtained and at what price."

If they can't provide a satisfactory answer, the ticket will be revoked immediately.

6. BECOME A STREET VENDOR

Street vendors will be selling knickknacks to tourists during the games and you can too, if you get permission from the city.

"People can't arbitrarily sell stuff without a licence," said John Decourcy, director of bylaw enforcement.

He has a plan to see the maximum number of bylaw staff on the streets during the games to ensure fairness for those who've gone to the trouble of conducting their business lawfully. You can apply for a licence at 850 Coxwell Ave.

The fine for unlicensed street vending is $365.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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JEOPARDY

And for $1,000, the answer is ...

Nearly one in 10 Canadians live in the city, capital of this province. If you know the province is "Ontario," you could have answered the $200 question in the "We Love You, Toronto!" category of the TV quiz show Jeopardy!

Knowing that answer from Tuesday night's show doesn't necessarily fast-track you into Mensa. But it must count for something.

A cynic might even note that the Jeopardy! category celebrating Toronto follows more than 400,000 questions asked over the almost 31 seasons of the brain-testing quiz show.

Indeed, host Alex Trebek, 74, holds the Guinness World Record for "the most episodes ever hosted by the same presenter."

That said, Ontario-born host Trebek is still one of us, if much richer and better tanned.

Here's the rest of the "We Love You, Toronto!" category from Tuesday night:

Alex Trebek
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For $400. At Yonge and Front Streets, you can pose with the Cup at the Hall of Fame for this sport.
Question: What is hockey?

For $600. It's not winter all year. Torontonians enjoy these areas and one at Hanlan's Point is even clothing-optional.
Question: What are beaches?

For $800. Flag down this apt two-word name of Amtrak's route that starts in New York City and ends in Toronto.
Question: What is Maple Leaf?

For $1,000. Until 1992, there was a ban on Toronto stores opening on this day. We're not talking about just once a year.
Question: What is Sunday?

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RISKY BEHAVIOUR

Police warn public not to point lasers at aircraft

It sounds like a problem out of a sci-fi movie, but Durham Regional Police are warning the public about the dangers of hitting their aircraft with laser beams.

Police said there were two incidents involving lasers being pointed at their aircraft in the past month.

In the first incident on March 21, at around 8 p.m., the force's Air 1 helicopter cockpit was flooded by green light as it flew over the Bowmanville area. Crew members usually wear protective glasses when flying, but the beam struck one officer before putting them on, police said. The next week, a laser came close to a helicopter in Courtice, but did not strike the craft.

Police say pointing lasers at helicopters puts their officers at risk of being distracted by the flash of light. In some cases, the light can temporarily blind the officers, losing their night vision and ability to see instruments, runways and obstacles, police say. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pam Goldsworthy, manager of the Condom Shack on Queen West, displays a selection of latex-free condoms. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Condom use slips among students

BIRTH CONTROL

Low-quality latex blamed for decline in popularity

E.K. Hudson
For Metro

Canadians are more condom-conscious than our American partners, new research shows.

While condom use is declining across the U.S., Statistics Canada says the percentage of Canadians using condoms for contraception has remained steady since 2003.

But our rubber-donning record may be slipping: a study commissioned by Trojan in 2013 showed that during their last sexual encounter, only half of post-secondary students in Canada used a condom.

The numbers don't concern Alex McKay, executive director of the Sex Information & Education Council of Canada. McKay believes the dip in condom use is offset by other forms of contraception like birth control pills or intrauterine devices.

In the U.S., latex — with its distinctive smell and reduced sensation — is being blamed for declining condom use.

Pam Goldsworthy, manager of the Condom Shack in downtown Toronto, can attest to that. In addition to ordinary latex condoms, she sells ones made of polyisoprene, nitrile and even lamb skin.

She often directs customers searching for alternatives to latex to premium latex condoms made in Japan. They're thinner, stronger and less chemically processed, she said.

"Nine times out of 10 people can switch to better latex and they're fine," she explained.

To Goldsworthy, the problem isn't latex, it's manufacturing standards.

> **"Nine times out of 10 people can switch to better latex and they're fine.**
> Pam Goldsworthy, manager of the Condom Shack

"North American standards aren't particularly strict in comparison to the rest of the world. If you go to Europe the condoms are better, if you go to Japan they're the best in the world."

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Unhappy owner's sportscar quest

The missing Datsun 240Z. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VEHICLE THEFT

Cash reward offered for information

The heartbroken owner of a vintage sports car stolen from north Pickering is offering a $10,000 reward for information that leads to the return of his "bluebird."

The blue 1972 Datsun 240Z was stolen from a garage where it was stored, near Concession Road 8 and Sideline 12, sometime between December and mid-March, Durham Regional Police said Wednesday.

"I was in my 20s (when I bought it), I was a young kid, and I drove the car like I stole it all the time," said Scott Davidson, who is now 67. "It's a test point in my memory that I can come up with all sorts of stories about what I did, where I went with that car.

The building where the car was stored was not a professional storage facility, but Davidson says he did not make it easy for any prospective thieves. He took the battery out of the car and stored it at his house, so any prospective thief would have had to tow or flatbed the car away.

Police are asking anyone with information about the theft to contact them, and have released photos of the car.

Davidson has been posting on Facebook and other forums, hoping to spread word of the theft and reward.

Support has been widespread, with replies across North America, reaching as far as parts of Europe.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE SEASONS CHANGE, SO DO OUR SCHEDULES

Starting April 11, we're making changes to our bus services, including some **earlier** departures.

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METROLINX

LGBTQ

Parents' praise for Premier Wynne

Parents in Ontario frequently tell Kathleen Wynne that having an openly-gay political leader in the province makes life safer for their homosexual children, the premier said Wednesday.

"People come up to me all the time and say 'I'm so glad you're there because my daughter can see that she can be anything, she can do anything," Wynne said after participating in an anti-bullying rally at an east-end high school.

"But there also are people who come up to me often and say 'you've made a difference in my son's life or my daughter's life. They're gay and they see your presence there as an important signal that our society is changing."

Wynne said she's not a gay activist, but she does have "added responsibilities" as an openly-gay premier to try to make society more tolerant and inclusive.

"I never pretended to be a gay activist, that's not who I was, but the fact is that being a lesbian, being in this office, allows people to look at this office in a different way," she said.

Speaking at the anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day event at the high school, Wynne said she's frequently approached by fathers who say having an "out" premier helps make things better, and safer, for their gay children.

"It'll be at a business lunch or an event and often it's a man, a father, who'll come up and just say quietly to me: 'my son is really, really, really happy that you're there, it's making a difference in his life," she said. "And what that says to me is that it's a very emotional thing for that dad that his son has said to him just having an out premier makes the world safer for him."

Wynne told the students about her own experience in high school in the 1960s, saying no one would come out then as gay, and in many cases would not tell their parents about their sexuality.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Kathleen Wynne. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRANSPORTATION

GO transit warns travelers of changes

GO riders are being warned to check their departing platform information at Union Station starting April 15. Metrolinx has been doing some hard-core communications around the re-opening of platforms 4 and 5 and the coinciding closure of platforms 20 and 21.

The changes, part of the years-long Union Station renovations, will affect virtually all GO train riders, said Metrolinx spokeswoman Anne Marie Aikins.

"It basically shifts almost everyone's trains," she said.

GO riders are so excited they are posting pictures of the redesigned platforms. They like 4 and 5 because they're closer for most downtown commuters who work north of Front St., according to Aikins.

The platform renovations are designed to make them fully accessible, and the tracks are also replaced.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Doors to close at music venue

SHUTTERED

The Press Club offered local artists a stage to perform

E.K. Hudson
For Metro

Another bar heralded as an institution in Toronto's music scene is shutting its doors, shining light on what some believe is an increasingly inhospitable environment for live music venues in the city.

Andrew Hickey and his brother Mikael opened The Press Club eight years ago, long before Dundas Street West was a hip, up-and-coming area. With only local Ontario brews on tap, it was a place where local musicians could play without being forced to pay a fee to the bar.

"We always considered ourselves a stepping off point for people to get their start," Hickey said.

> **We always considered ourselves a stepping off point for people to get their start.**
> Andrew Hickey

Hickey feels the bar's closure is another blow to a city already starved for music venues.

He blames the shrinking amount of stage space on Toronto's booming downtown population, as well as zoning and noise bylaws, the latter of which are currently under review.

That said, Hickey doesn't blame the city for the bar's closure.

"It was just a bunch of little things that are hard to bounce back from," he said.

Ward 19 Coun. Mike Layton has been pushing the city to support local music since 2011. He can now count Mayor John Tory as an ally; the mayor spoke recently about growing Toronto's live music scene after attending the South by Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas.

Layton believes the city is falling short of its responsibilities to provide clear instructions to business owners and residents affected by venues. He wants to revise the city's bylaws around noise and licensing to make the entire process more transparent.

Layton was surprised to hear The Press Club was closing down.

"They weren't on my radar as a problem spot," he said.

The Press Club, located at 850 Dundas St. W., will host its last open jam night on April 11.

"Friendships are centred around this place and that's what I'll miss most," said owner Mikael Hickey, left, alongside his brother Andrew at The Press Club's last Toast and Jam session on April 7. E.K. HUDSON/FOR METRO

One final goodbye

Jimmy Byron worked his last shift as barman at The Press Club surrounded by friends.

He started bartending four years ago and never left. "I hit it off right away with the locals. They fell in love with me and me with them," he said between cracking beers.

Byron is a musician and actor originally from Chicago. He's known for his ivy cap, American Manhattan and backing up bands on his harmonica from behind the bar.

Indie folk musician Mitch Thomson calls Byron his "Toronto big brother" and came out for Byron's last shift at the Press Club Tuesday. He used to live around the corner and his band, The BelleRegards, played their first gig at the bar.

"It's like family," said Kirk Kettles, a regular whose order Byron knows by heart. "People come in to see Jimmy."

Byron stood atop the bar to give a final toast: "Thanks for the last four years or if you just got here, thanks for the last half an hour."

E.K. HUDSON/METRO

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AGO exhibits Emily Carr

ART

West Coast scenery, people at the heart of artist's work

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Emily Carr's life was full of striking encounters with the indigenous cultures and formidable landscapes of British Columbia.

She also knew how to capture and convey those encounters through art.

A new exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario attempts to reintroduce Carr to Toronto audiences. Featuring some of her most outstanding artifacts and paintings, the show explores her fascination with the Canadian West Coast.

"It's a representation of all phases of her career, from the earliest works as a young woman to the ferocious and accomplished career artist," said co-curator Sarah Milroy.

Dubbed "From the Forest to the Sea: Emily Carr in British Columbia," the show opens Saturday and runs through early July.

According to Milroy, one of the themes of the exhibition is the contrasting landscapes of the West Coast.

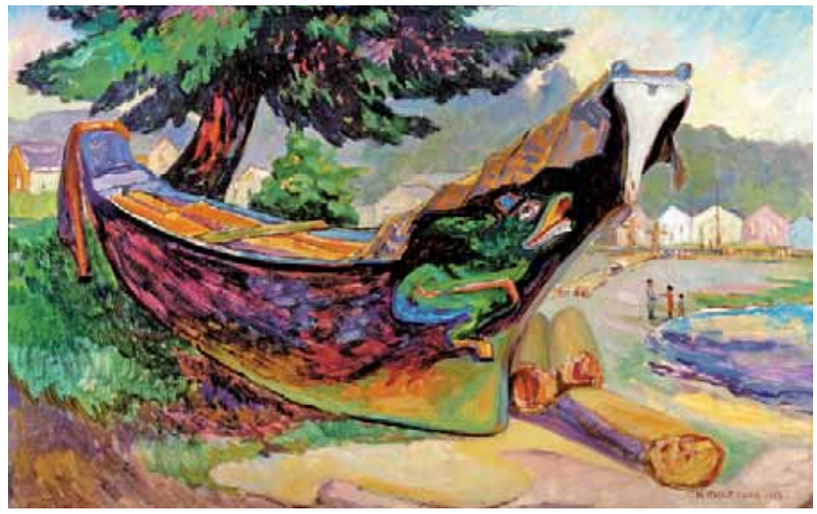
"It is like having two different moods when you are in B.C.," she said, explaining that one part of the exhibition is dark and full of forestry images, while the other is packed with blue-sky paintings and seascapes.

The show will also introduce Torontonians to the woman behind some of Canada's most iconic paintings. Carr was an emotional and spiritual woman, Milroy said, but she also faced a lot of struggles to keep her career on the right path.

"Carr was really impoverished through much of her life, and did much of her paintings on cheap craft paper," Milroy said, aware of the irony that Carr's art now sell for millions at auctions.

At the 2013 Heffel auction in Toronto, Carr's The Crazy Stair (The Crooked Staircase) sold for $3 million, becoming the most expensive piece ever sold by a female Canadian artist.

"The public was slow to catch up with Carr's artistry and the rigour of her work," Milroy said. "Just as they were in discovering the key message in her works about the beauty and dignity of indigenous cultures."



A painting of an Indian war canoe, one of over 100 paintings and drawings by Emily Carr to be exhibited at the Art Galley of Ontario. CONTRIBUTED

> **The public was slow to catch up with Carr's artistry and the rigour of her work.**
> Sarah Milroy, exhibit co-curator

VIA RAIL

Toronto-Winnipeg service to resume

Via Rail says it will resume passenger train service between Toronto and Winnipeg on Friday.

Via halted passenger service on the route following a CN freight train derailment in northern Ontario on March 7.

Via says an eastbound train will depart from Vancouver on April 10 and a westbound train will leave Toronto on April 11.

The railway says delays may occur and it will keep its passengers informed of any en route schedule changes.

The CN derailment near Gogama, Ont., caused numerous tank cars carrying crude oil to catch fire and spill into a local river system.

The Transportation Safety Board has said track failures may have played a role in the derailment and has asked Transport Canada to review the risk assessments for that stretch of track.

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Now's the perfect time for drivers to compare rates

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FSCO predicts lower rates will continue across the province, so now's the perfect time for drivers to compare rates. Insurance premiums are calculated based on a number of factors including your vehicle, your personal driving record, and where you live, so it's possible your rates did not change. If that's the case, or if you've recently moved or gotten a new vehicle, comparing rates today and switching providers could save you money.

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Classic cartoons, warts and all

BACKSTAGE PASS

Cineforum to screen works considered offensive now

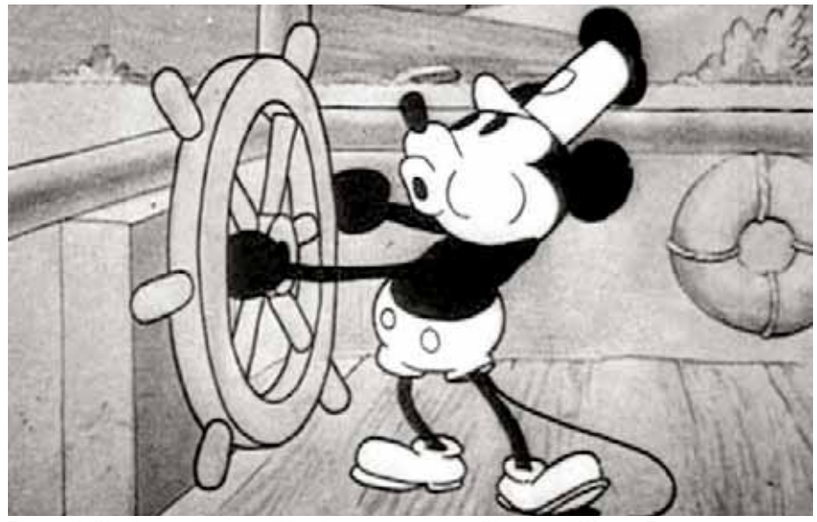
Ian Gormely
Backstage Pass

Today they're loveable mascots for multibillion-dollar media companies. But there was a time when Bugs Bunny and Mickey Mouse represented something more politically incorrect.

Over the years many studios have scrubbed clean classic cartoons from the 1930s, '40s and '50s in an effort to skip over their lucrative properties' violent, and at times racist pasts.

It's a history that's highlighted in the Cineforum's current series, The Unbowdlerized Best of Hollywood Cartoons.

"It's Bugs and Daffy with all their parts," says Reg Hartt, who runs Cineforum out of what's basically his Toronto living room.



Toronto's Cineforum theatre will be showcasing classic Disney and Warner Bros. cartoons that would be considered racist or offensive by modern standards. SCREENSHOT

The series is a reflection of Hartt's views on censorship.

"The legend dates back to a group of 11 Warner Bros. cartoons that were pulled from syndicated television packages due to offensive racial content," explains Jaime Weinman, Macleans magazine's entertainment writer and an avid fan of classic animation.

"As the 80s went on parents groups got more watchdog-y," and many studios edited "offensive" material from their animated shorts, Weinman said.

Hartt's Unbowdlerized series, a "rewrapping" of his long-running presentation of censored cartoons, restores many of these clips to their original glory. He named it after Thomas Bowdler, a moral crusader whose publication of the Family Shakspeare (sic), edited out the more ribald aspects of the Bard's work, making his name synonymous with censorship.

"It's popular culture," Hartt says. "Once you start filtering things out, everything goes."

Some of the cuts are, arguably, heavy handed — Disney no longer allows smoking in their content and Speedy Gonzalez was briefly eliminated from Looney Tunes reruns.

"Speedy is actually popular in Mexico and many Mexican viewers didn't like being deprived of him," says Weinman.

But other cartoons featured characters in blackface, or, particularly during World War II, Japanese racial stereotypes. So what value could they possibly have today?

"They help contribute to our understanding of cultural history," says Weinman, "for good or ill."

The Unbowdlerized Best of Hollywood Cartoons — 9 p.m., Saturday April 11, 18 and 25 at the Cineforum, 463 Bathurst Street. Suggested donation of $20.

BEST WORK

Problematic masterpiece

Of all the cartoons that have been censored over the years, Macleans' Jaime Weinman only calls one "the ultimate 'problematic' masterpiece." "Coal Black and the Sebben Dwarfs" has "every stereotype you can think of" for a cartoon released in 1943. But, from a technical standpoint, it's also one of the greatest cartoons of all time, placing it on similarly troubled historical ground as The Birth of a Nation, D. W. Griffith's racist epic. That film is also often regarded as the first modern blockbuster. "Some people don't like seeing apologies for the past," says Weinman. "I think of it more as a way of giving context."

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inc Research

Primary residence focus of trial

EXPENSE SCANDAL

Day 2: Both sides looking to define terms

In a trial expected to delve deep into the often murky rules of the Senate, an ordinary dictionary played a key role Wednesday during suspended senator Mike Duffy's second day in court.

The definition both sides were in search of: what it means for a place to be someone's primary residence.

It's a key element in the case. The 31 charges Duffy faces include allegations that he fraudulently claimed living expenses for a home in an Ottawa suburb, where he spent most of his time, while declaring a summer house in P.E.I. as his primary residence.

Retired Senate law clerk Mark Audcent was the Crown's first witness, telling the court that as part of his job, he briefed every new senator as part of an orientation process designed to provide an overview of the requirements of the job.

To be appointed a senator, court heard, a person must meet certain criteria, including being a resident of the province from which they were appointed.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced on Dec. 22, 2008, that Duffy would become a senator for Prince Edward Island.

Suspended senator Mike Duffy leaves court after the second day of his trial in Ottawa on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Audcent told the court that in Duffy's orientation session — which took place the next day — he wouldn't have gone specifically over what it means to be a resident, saving such detailed discussions for if or when a senator asked for more information.

But by his own estimation, Audcent said, determining residency requires considering a set of indicators, among them where a person primarily lives, where they pay their taxes and get government services such as a health care and where they socialize, doing things like going to church or bowling.

But the meaning of residence has never been defined, either in the Constitution or by the Senate, Audcent acknowledged during cross-examination by Duffy's lawyer, Donald Bayne.

Bayne put pages of the concise Oxford English Dictionary in front of Audcent, having him read the definition of primary as "of chief importance or principal."

So, since the constitutionality of Duffy's appointment hinged on him being a resident of P.E.I., it must de facto be his "primary" residence, Bayne said.

"The minute his status changed form being a private journalist broadcaster to being a parliamentary, an appointed senator, the chiefly important residence for his status was P.E.I.," said Bayne.

"The one he needs to maintain, yes," answered Audcent, who had earlier told the court that in terms of determining residence there was no minimum number of days required to be spent in a home province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEMO

Mark Audcent was shown a memo which dealt with the section of the Constitution that talks about the need for a senator to be resident in the province represented.

The memo noted that the Senate is master of its own house when it comes to deciding what residency means and that no one had ever been disqualified from sitting in the Senate over a residency question, provided they continued to own property in the province they represented.

The memo said if a senator told the upper chamber he or she was a resident of a particular province, everyone accepted it.

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Toddler's photo used in anti-vax campaign

At just 20 months old, Calgary-area tot Adele Collins has already become a face for acceptance of people with Down syndrome.

But now the young girl's mother, Krista Rowland-Collins, is crying foul as an anonymous Facebook entity has stolen a photo of the girl and repurposed it as part of a campaign claiming that, among other things, administering vaccinations to children can lead to them developing an extra chromosome and render them severely autistic.

The group, known as Disciples of The New Dawn, has also stated that mothers who don't breast-feed put their children at risk of developing autism, and those opting to give birth via caesarean section are inferior. Adele's photo is one of many that used by the group.

"Having them do this to our kids was so hurtful and so wrong," said Rowland-Collins.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

Disciples of The New Dawn repurposed a photo of Adele Collins for an anti-vaccination campaign. CONTRIBUTED; USED WITH FAMILY'S PERMISSION

IN BRIEF

CF-18s bomb first targets in Syria

Canadian warplanes have bombed their first targets in Syria, Defence Minister Jason Kenney announced late Wednesday.

Kenney said two CF-18s struck an Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant garrison in Ar-Raqqah, about 160 kilometres east of Aleppo. Kenney provided no other details, other than to say Canada's role in Syria is to help ensure the group has no safe haven.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FUNDING

RCMP put more into terror investigations

The RCMP has been forced to shuffle more cash and officers into terrorism investigations as Ottawa's contribution has remained static over the last decade, documents show.

The Mounties diverted $22.9 million from other operations to the Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams (INSETs) in 2013-14. The RCMP's share of INSET funding has been steadily rising from $717,000 in 2003 to more than $20 million for each of the last three fiscal years.

Meanwhile, the federal government's contribution to INSETs has remained static at $10 million a year since 2003.

The documents state investigators have been reassigned, on a temporary basis, from "dedicated special investigative teams, surveillance, undercover teams, technical intercepts, analytical support, wiretap warrants and production orders."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Japan's Canuck sumo star

TOKYO

Victoria man left football for traditional Asian sport

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

At six-foot-seven and 360 pounds, athlete Brodi Henderson has always been the biggest guy on the team.

Now, the 20-year-old from Victoria, B.C., is using his size and strength to his advantage as the only North American to be accepted into the Japanese Professional Sumo Association.

"He's really strong," his father Lee Henderson told Metro. "He benches over 500 pounds."

Henderson secured his spot in the league last September when he won the open-weight class at the U.S. Sumo Open in California.

He moved to Tokyo in February where he was accepted onto one of the country's 48 sumo teams — an already impressive feat within itself, said Lee.

B.C.'s Brodi Henderson, now 20, at the 2013 U.S. Sumo Open in California. DUSTIN SNIPES/USA SUMO

"Each team is only allowed to have one foreigner," he said. "There are only about eight foreigners in all of Japanese pro sumo."

Henderson has only been in Japan for two months but already, his presence is making waves. With his towering stature, it's hard for him to go unnoticed, said Lee.

"When we showed up at the airport, there was a news crew there waiting for us," he said. "He was on the front page of a couple of newspapers before we got there."

Henderson first entered into the sport at the age of 15.

A keen hockey and football player, Lee said his son's size didn't always work in his favour.

At 13, Henderson was already six-foot-five, weighed 325 pounds and could bench-press over 300 pounds. Coaches were concerned that he could unintentionally injure his teammates.

325

At age 13, Henderson was already six-foot-five, weighed 325 pounds and could bench-press over 300 pounds.

Henderson first tried his hand at judo, but even in that sport, Lee said it was difficult to find opponents in his weight category.

At one judo competition, all the other competitors dropped out of his category after he signed up, he said.

"Brodi was really quite discouraged and disappointed," said Lee. "So that's when he started looking for something that he could do where he could really excel."

Soon after discovering sumo, Henderson travelled to California to compete in the U.S. Open. After only a day of training, he went on to win almost every match, said Lee.

"It was pretty jaw dropping," he said. "He's a big, powerful man, but still, for a guy who has virtually no formal training, everyone was really impressed with his overall strength."

Although he has a "long way to go," Andrew Freund, director of USA Sumo, said Henderson's had an impressive performance at last year's U.S. Sumo Open.

"Last year, he pulled out some pretty incredible upsets," said Freund.

BACKGROUND

Hard work

Henderson's daily training sessions start at 5:30 a.m. and include five-hour workouts that focus on both strength and flexibility.

Staying limber is incredibly important for sumo wrestling, he said, with even the heaviest wrestlers being able to do the splits.

It's a gruelling schedule, but Lee said his son thought "long and hard" about moving to Japan, even turning down football scholarships to pursue sumo. METRO

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South Carolina officer fired and charged with murder

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mayor orders police to wear body cameras

A white South Carolina police officer who claimed he killed an unarmed black man in self-defence has been fired, the city's mayor announced Wednesday, a day after the release of a video showing the officer firing eight shots at the fleeing man's back.

The mayor also announced that he had ordered body cameras to be worn by every single officer on the force in North Charleston.

Protests began within hours of the murder charge against Michael Thomas Slager.

"I have watched the video. And I was sickened by what I saw. And I have not watched it since," Police Chief Eddie Driggers said. He was interrupted by chants of "no justice, no peace" and other shouted questions that he and the mayor said they could not answer.

The town will continue to pay for Slager's health insurance because his wife is eight months pregnant, said Mayor Keith Summey, who called the incident a tragedy for two families.

About 75 people gathered outside City Hall, led by Black Lives Matter, a group formed after the fatal shooting of another black man in Ferguson, Mo.

"Eight shots in the back!" local organizer Muhiydin D'Baha shouted through a bullhorn. The crowd yelled, "In the back!" in response.

The video recorded by an unidentified bystander shows North Charleston Patrolman Michael Thomas Slager dropping his Taser, pulling out his Glock pistol and firing at Walter Lamer Scott from a distance as he runs away.

The 50-year-old man falls after the eighth shot.

The dead man's father, Walter Scott Sr., said Wednesday that the officer "looked like he was trying to kill a deer running through the woods."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In this April 4, 2015, frame from video provided by Attorney L. Chris Stewart, representing the family of Walter Lamer Scott, Scott appears to be running away from City Patrolman Michael Thomas Slager, right, in North Charleston, S.C. COURTESY OF L. CHRIS STEWART/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"I almost couldn't look at it to see my son running defencelessly, being shot. It just tore my heart to pieces.**
>
> Judy Scott, the slain man's mother, on ABC's Good Morning America

BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING

Tsarnaev guilty on 30 charges

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was convicted by a federal jury Wednesday on all charges in the Boston Marathon bombing; that jury now must decide whether the 21-year-old former college student should be executed.

Tsarnaev folded his arms, fidgeted and looked down at the defence table as he listened to one guilty verdict after another on all 30 counts against him, including conspiracy and deadly use of a weapon of mass destruction. Seventeen of those counts are punishable by death.

The verdict — reached after a day and a half of deliberations — was practically a foregone conclusion, given his lawyer's startling admission at the trial's outset that Tsarnaev carried out the terror attack with his now-dead older brother, Tamerlan.

In the trial's next phase, which could begin as early as Monday, the jury will hear evidence on whether Tsarnaev should get the death penalty or spend the rest of his life in prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OBAMAS

U.S. Secret Service offers driving lessons

Some teenagers get driving lessons from their parents. Other teens are taught by licensed instructors.

But Malia Obama isn't your average 16-year-old: her driving lessons were provided by the U.S. Secret Service.

Asked who taught Malia how to drive, first lady Michelle Obama told celebrity chef and daytime talk-show host Rachael Ray in an interview that it was the armed agents who provide around-the-clock security for the family.

"The Secret Service, actually, because they wouldn't let me in the car with her," Mrs. Obama said in an excerpt of the interview that was released by Ray's program. The full interview is set to air Thursday.

Mrs. Obama hasn't driven herself in seven or eight years, she said.

She added that driving gives Malia "a sense of normalcy," helping her feel like the rest of her friends who are also driving. "And my kids have got to learn how to live in the world like normal kids."

When Ray says that the Obamas seem "so grounded," the first lady replies that her "hope is just to make sure that they (her daughters) come out of this thing as functioning adults, you know?"

Mrs. Obama, whose younger daughter Sasha is 13, said Malia also drives herself around Washington.

"She always has security around but in order for her to learn how to drive she had to drive on her own," the first lady said during a separate interview on "Live! With Kelly and Michael" earlier this week.

"So once she was legally permitted to drive on her own, she gets in her car."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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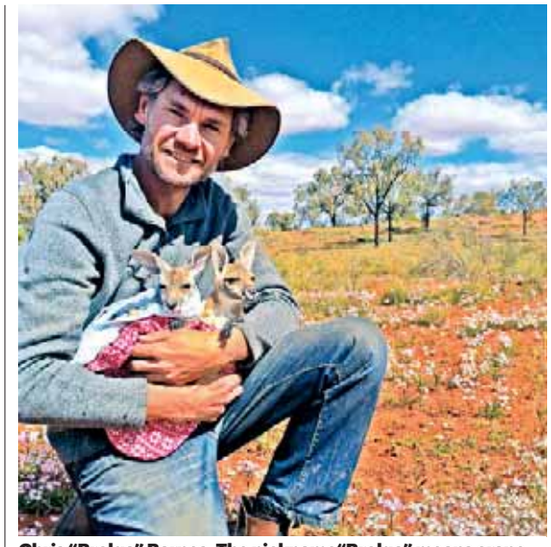

Chris "Brolga" Barnes. The nickname"Brolga" means crane — so chosen because Barnes is six-foot-seven. CONTRIBUTED

Australia's kangaroo saviour

ANIMAL SANCTUARY

'Brolga' found a dead mother with a baby in her pouch

The first time Chris "Brolga" Barnes rescued an almost-dead baby kangaroo, he didn't know what to do. He just knew he had to do something.

That was nine years ago, when he was working as a tour guide in Australia's Northern Territory and saw an adult kangaroo lying dead in the middle of a highway. Whimpering in her pouch was her baby, while scavenging birds circled overhead.

Barnes took the baby home, named her Palau and nursed her for months. About a year later, he released her into the wild.

He has since rescued more than 200 orphans, started a sanctuary outside Alice Springs, and even starred in a documentary, Kangaroo Dundee. Now he is about to start work on building a hospital for wildlife — kangaroos, camels — whatever size or shape they come in.

"The babies need to be kept warm, so they go everywhere I go," he says.

Usually he has a couple of them sleeping with him at night, either snuggling with him or at his feet. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Temporary workers leave holes

EMPLOYMENT

Canadians aren't applying to fill vacant positions

Lucy Haines
For Metro | Edmonton

Over the past seven years, Grant McCurdy has staffed about 25 housekeeping and janitorial positions at Edmonton's DoubleTree Hotel with temporary workers from other countries.

He estimates 90 per cent of those workers now have Canadian citizenship and still work at the hotel. However, on April 1 McCurdy and many other Edmonton businesspeople lost temporary employees when changes to the federal temporary-worker program went into effect. Tens of thousands of workers, including up to 16,000 in Alberta, were sent to their home countries.

McCurdy lost three employees in positions that he said won't be easy to fill.

"We're definitely feeling the impact," he said. "We pay the going rate, but it's not a high-paying field, and we're finding local people don't want the work. With camps closing in the oil patch, we thought we'd get a rush of applicants, but it's not happening."

Recruiting people to fill jobs is one of the industry's biggest problems, according to Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association president and CEO Dave Kaiser.

Half the employees sent home worked in low-wage service-sector jobs and thousands more in construction.

"The change means employers in the low-wage service sector will have to pay higher wages. Our economy simply can't tolerate a two-tiered labour market," said Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) president Gil McGowan. While some 70,000 temporary workers are still in Alberta, McGowan said the AFL is calling for the program to be scrapped completely.

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Tories plan balanced budget legislation

Cabinet ministers would see their pay docked five per cent if the federal government fails to balance its books under proposed balanced-budget legislation announced Wednesday by Finance Minister Joe Oliver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS

Entrepreneur sees crickets as protein

Cricket-based protein powder is the next frontier for health enthusiasts thanks to an adventurous Winnipeg entrepreneur.

"Before we started making this, I was putting raw crickets in my smoothies every morning," said Alex Drysdale, owner of Crik Nutrition and creator of what he says is Canada's first cricket protein powder.

Drysdale started playing around with the business idea last fall, when he realized the protein-rich bugs were underrepresented in the health-supplement market.

A pound of crickets has twice the protein of a pound of beef and three times as much iron. Crickets also grow faster and require much less food, water and land than cows. Crik Nutrition gets its crickets from a farm in Ontario called Next Millennium Farms, which specializes in producing edible bugs.

Despite so many positives, squeamishness is a major barrier for bug-based foods. "It's pretty polarizing. I either get people who are really excited to try it or people who say they would never eat a bug," said Drysdale.

Drysdale is launching a Kickstarter campaign later this month to get Crik Nutrition off the ground. The protein powder will be available online soon if he can meet his $10,000 goal.

EVA WASNEY/FOR METRO WINNIPEG

Owner Alex Drysdale holds up a tasty cricket.
EVA WASNEY/METRO WINNIPEG

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, April 9, 2015

PRO CON

Should we have a national pharmacare program?

YES: Canada's system is fragmented and inefficient

Every developed country with a universal health-care system has universal coverage of prescription drugs — except Canada. Without adequate coverage, one in 10 Canadians can't afford to take their prescriptions as written. Having multiple drug plans in every province decreases our purchasing power on the world market and increases admin costs. This leads to at least $4 billion in unnecessary costs every year. The proof that it would work is found in countries like the U.K., which provides universal coverage of necessary medicines at prices far lower than Canada, while attracting five times as much R&D on a per capita basis.

Steve Morgan is a professor with UBC and the founder of Pharmacare 2020.

NO: Sounds great on paper, but won't work in reality

1. Health care is clearly a provincial area of jurisdiction. 2. There's a perpetual tendency for those favouring new spending to make extremely optimistic cost assumptions. Costs are usually much higher. 3. Our system is one of the most expensive in the world. Maybe we need to look at fundamental reform rather than embedding pharmacare in a mediocre system. 4. Lowering costs puts downward pressure on pharma profits, which discourages investment in new drugs. Alternatively, they will inflate prices in other markets. Are we OK with people in other countries being charged through the nose so we can have cheap drugs?

Aaron Wudrick is the federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

Urban Outfitters' smudge kit an insensitive offering

Danielle Paradis

This week, Urban Outfitters came under scrutiny for its sale of a "Local Branch Smudge Kit" ($39.99 on sale from $52.00), a sort of pseudo-ceremonial kit marketed towards hipsters as "energy balancing" that contains a wild turkey smudging feather, stoneware smudging dish, candle and instructions.

Many indigenous people feel this is cultural appropriation. What is the big deal? To start with, there is not just one Native American culture; there are hundreds across the U.S. and Canada. Secondly, repeated missteps by retailers and non-indigenous fashion designers could be avoided if they took the opportunity to engage with indigenous communities in an authentic way, instead of commodifying and misappropriating sacred symbols. Simply put: If Urban Outfitters loves the aboriginal esthetic, maybe they should hire some aboriginal fashion designers and artists.

The manufacturers of the smudge kit are Mackenzie Edgerton and Blaine Vossler, a white couple who call themselves pioneers, live in an Airstream trailer, and also sell Old West-inspired cellphone holsters, bison beanies and shirts featuring buffalo and Native American arrowheads.

Reducing a sacred symbol for aboriginals to *product sku number 34519397* is problematic, says Max FineDay, president of the Students' Union at the University of Saskatchewan. FineDay, a young aboriginal man, grew up around indigenous activism. His involvements with indigenous issues are primarily in politics, but he doesn't miss a chance to speak out against cultural appropriation.

"The smudge kit shows a deep, deep ignorance about indigenous ceremonies, protocols, and laws that exist around use of medicine," FineDay said. "Selling a 'kit' that they market as a New Age/native-inspired answer to relieving stress from your nine-to-five grind is deeply disrespectful for those of us who still practise our traditional ceremonies."

The kit is just the latest misstep for Urban Outfitters. Last year, it found itself in legal trouble for its tacky line of "Navajo Hipster" panties and flasks. The Navajo Nation filed a lawsuit alleging breach of trademark and violations under the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, which prohibits misleading marketing of American Indian goods in the U.S. As of press time, the smudge kit has been quietly taken down from Urban Outfitters' website. They could not be reached for comment.

It gets tiring to call out corporations for appropriating aboriginal symbols. Whether it's war bonnets or smudge kits, after repeated offenses, they should know better. Says FineDay, "there's an opportunity here for Urban Outfitters to change what is accepted in the fashion industry — they should rise to the challenge."

Danielle Paradis is a writer from Edmonton. She writes about aboriginal issues, gender, education and pop culture.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The ocean makes me inconsequential, and yet somehow complete

Clouds crowded over the stone buildings as I walked into work yesterday morning.

Dark, drizzling rain and wind — it felt like my home by the sea.

I left Victoria years ago, moved between landlocked cities and ended up in the Big Smoke, or maybe the Big Cement.

And I have never stopped yearning for the ocean. To smell it. To look out at the horizon, the water frothed and steel grey. Or look out at the lack of a horizon on white days when the sky and sea are indistinguishable.

It's more than a nice view: The ocean strips away thoughts and settles me. It dwarfs my small life by its size and power, makes me inconsequential, and yet somehow complete.

It's the exact opposite of a city's crowded sidewalks fenced in by skyscrapers, bumping shoulders with the competitors. The city judges. It demands that you constantly be someone, do something, worthwhile.

Mike O'Brien — a man I've never met — also feels the ocean's pull.

He has long lived in Winnipeg, is dying of cancer, and he recently returned home to Victoria.

"You spend the rest of your life trying to get back," Mike told a reporter who happened upon him, his son and wife by the water.

"I thought, okay, if I have time for one last trip (and my doctor told me I don't) where do I want to go? I want to come back here and see it one last time," he said.

It would be my last trip, too.

Sometimes, I look out at Lake Ontario and try to imagine it's the ocean. Sometimes when I hear a seagull's shriek I am, for a split second, on a rocky shore in B.C. at high tide.

On recent trips home, I've waded into frigid winter water just to feel the soft buoyancy, and taste the tang of seaweed and salt. It's not enough to look at the ocean, sometimes, for the worries to fade. I want to be swallowed.

"When I look out beyond the island, I like to imagine sailing off and not looking back," my sister, who lives in Vancouver, told me.

The horizon does draw you out to it. Out to nowhere, really, or everywhere.

And the tide doesn't care if you're there. When it's violent, it is not angry. When it's placid, it is not happy. It's never sad. It's never questioning. It never answers.

You are to it like a log. Accepted, not even for who you are, but simply for existing. And don't we all want that? That most seductive, liberating feeling. I will never stop seeking it.

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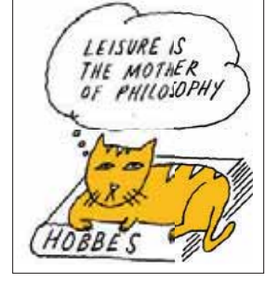


metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Thursday, April 9, 2015

Hot sex, cold cash
Erotic series sells to Hachette, pg. 25

Fashion's new poster girls

ADVERTISING

Why major brands hire middle-aged beauties

Mature women are having a moment.

With her silver hair styled into a severe bob, clad all in black with huge sunglasses, 80-year-old author Joan Didion cuts a striking figure in the new ads for Celine.

A guitar-strumming, floppy hat-wearing Joni Mitchell, 71, fronts Saint Laurent's Music Project. Meanwhile Madonna, 56, has been posing for Versace, Julia Roberts, 47, is the face of Givenchy and Italian actress Monica Bellucci, 50, will soon be the oldest ever Bond girl.

But critics question whether this signals a real change in attitudes, or if it's simply the latest shock tactic by a fashion industry that will never give up its love of youth.

The senior market is "one of the most powerful consumer groups in mid- to long-term", said Magdalena Kondej, an analyst for Euromonitor International.

"This approach would also seem the best option for apparel brands and there is no shortage of poster girls for older, glamorous women," Kondej added.

On the catwalks, even if former supermodels Amber Valletta, 41, and Eva Herzigova, 42, both took to the runways in Paris in January, skinny young women still rule.

But Sylvie Fabregon, who runs the Masters and Silver agencies for older models in the French capital, says she is seeing increased demand for more mature women.

"People are not stupid — women have had enough of seeing 20-year-old girls in adverts for cosmetics to fight wrinkles they don't have," she said.

Sylviane Degunst, 56, was spotted by a model scout two years ago on a London street, and has since appeared in photo shoots for high-fashion brands as well as other adverts.

Slim, although not tall, she has killer cheekbones and hair that has been white since she was 18.

Degunst was a writer and publisher in her native France, but struggled to find work on moving to Britain and has embraced her new career.

"We're not in competition with the young girls, but I think it makes a nice contrast. It's interesting to mix things up."

Artist, writer and curator Sue Kreitzman insists that older women are becoming more visible in all public spheres, and even goes so far as to call it an "older lady revolution."

"It's happening slowly, but it really, really is happening," said the 75-year-old London-based New Yorker.

Kreitzman praises the Celine pictures for showing "that older people are here, we're beautiful — we count".

"What I love about it is that Joan Didion doesn't look (even) slightly bit young. She's gorgeous and she's an old lady," she told AFP.

Sandra Howard, a 74-year-old author who was a top model in the 1960s and 1970s, is skeptical about the new trend, saying the fashion ads featuring older women are "not about grey power, but the power to shock."

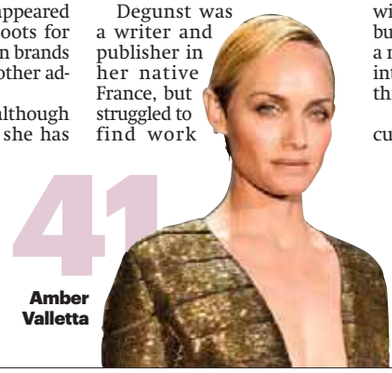
"It's one thing to have a beautiful older woman in a cosmetics ad — I think that does work," she told AFP, citing The Queen actress Helen Mirren's campaign for L'Oreal.

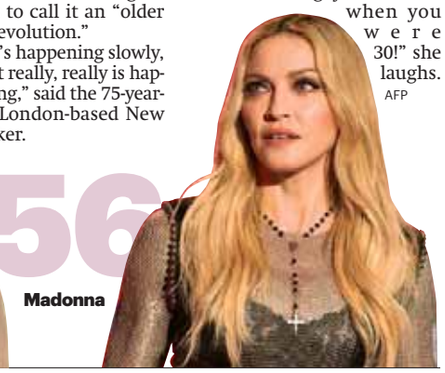
"I think in fashion photography you can mix in older and younger women, I think that's good. But if you go too much and do it as a gimmick, it's slightly offensive really."

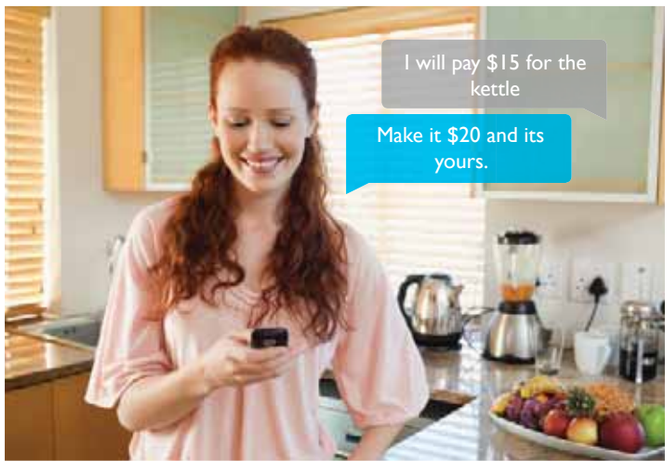
However, she concedes things have moved on. "When I was modelling, you were old when you were 30!" she laughs.

AFP

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES







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A case of vanishing letters between Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie reportedly had the actor in "a panic." GETTY IMAGES

Brangelina's words of woe whip up ado

QUELLE HORREUR!

Private letters reportedly go missing from French estate

Ned Ehrbar
In Hollywood

Well, this is awkward. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie could see their most intimate secrets revealed if a collection of correspondence between the two that went missing from their estate in France two years ago ever surfaces, according to the National Enquirer.

Oh, and the whole thing is reportedly Pitt's fault. "Brad went into a panic because he couldn't find them. He's terrified that they were lifted by someone who wants to publicly humiliate them," a source says.

The letters in question go up to 2013, when things weren't going so great, apparently.

"Late 2013 was the low point in their relationship," the source allegedly explains. "Brad was open about how he worried Angie might fall for a woman again, and he even brought up her previous issues with drugs."

OK, two things: One, this "source" seems to know an awful lot about the contents of the missing letters, which is more than a little suspicious. And two, the main takeaway here is that Pitt and Jolie actually write letters to each other, which is ridiculously endearing. I bet they even slip into casual French every now and then.

'90S UPDATE

She's all that again

Hollywood is out of ideas, as evidenced once again: The Weinstein Company and Miramax are working on a remake of the 1999 teen rom com She's All That, and honestly, doesn't Paul Walker's memory deserve better? The update will reportedly be directed by Spike Lee's wife, Tonya Lewis Lee, according to the Wrap. Also, not to get all nitpicky and film snobbish, but She's All That was already sort of a remake of My Fair Lady, which was a remake of Pygmalion, so would this truly be a remake? NED EHRBAR/METRO

Who asked for a She's All That remake? HANDOUT

JUST KIDDING

Noah no thief: Peters

Canadian comedy giant Russell Peters is stepping back from comments in which he accused incoming Daily Show host Trevor Noah of stealing his material.

The Brampton, Ont.-bred comic told a reporter with Channel NewsAsia's show Conversation With that Noah is a "thief."

But after the story was picked up by news outlets around the world, Peters took to Twitter to dismiss the accusations as nothing more than a joke.

He tweeted to Noah: "I can't believe how gullible the media are! Next time I'll choose a less awkward time to prank U!"

Peters can be seen making the comments in a videotaped interview from Singapore making the rounds online.

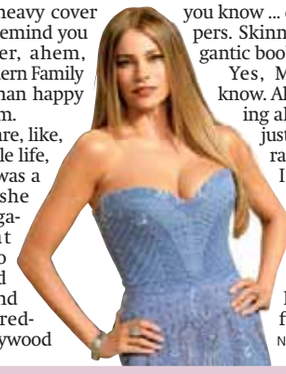
The apparent joke follows similar allegations levelled at Noah from another comic, David Kau. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOFIA VERGARA

Big bosom 'not fun'

Sofia Vergara is all over the latest issue of Vanity Fair, and in case the cleavage-heavy cover photo didn't remind you enough of her, ahem, assets, the Modern Family star is more than happy to discuss them.

"My boobs are, like, huge. My whole life, buying a bra was a nightmare," she tells the magazine. "What I used to do when I moved to L.A., I found places like Frederick's of Hollywood that make bras for streetwalkers.... I can't think of the word ... you know ... dancers ... strippers. Skinny girls with gigantic boobs."



Yes, Ms. Vergara. I know. Also! Don't go being all jealous of her just because of said rack. "Believe me, I wish I had fake boobs. I lay down and they completely go down like all the way, like here. It's not fun," she says. NED EHRBAR/METRO

BOOK NOTES

Jessica Seinfeld to serve up another cookbook, humour

Jessica Seinfeld is ready to guide you in the kitchen one more time.

The wife of comedian Jerry Seinfeld is writing two new books for Ballantine Books, an imprint of Random House. The first, a cookbook, will be released in fall 2016; the second will be a collection of humorous essays and observations. She has written three bestselling cookbooks, one the target of a plagiarism lawsuit that was later dismissed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Stine: 'It's great to be killing teens again'

TEEN LIT

Author tells Metro how Twitter revived Fear Street

Emily Laurence
Metro | New York

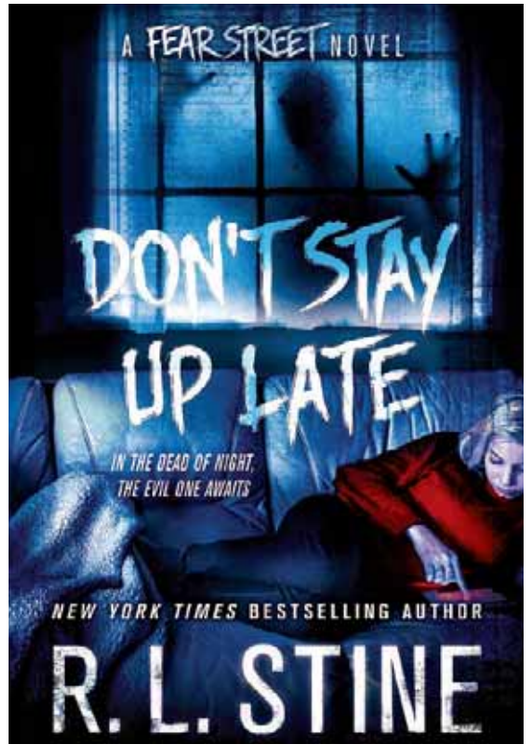
R.L. Stine loves Twitter. The scary story writer not only used it to write an entire short story in rapid-fire tweets last Halloween, he uses it to interact with fans who were kept up all night reading his books in the '80s and '90s. Now, Stine is releasing Don't Stay Up Late, the second book in his revived Fear Street series next month:

What went into the decision to revive Fear Street?
I did about 80 Fear Street books in the '80s and '90s and I just thought I had killed off enough teenagers for a while, so I stopped writing them for about 20 years. But my fans on Twitter kept asking me to write another one. I was really honest and told them that I had taken (Fear Street) to some publishers, but no one was interested. Ten minutes later, (an editor) at St. Martin's tweeted me and said she was interested. So, it's great to be killing teens again.

And Don't Stay Up Late is the second book in the revived series.
Right. I hadn't written a Fear Street book in 20 years, so I had to get out my map of Shadyside and remember the history, because there's this enormous backstory. I came up with a bunch of ideas and pitched them. The first one was Party Games, and Don't Stay Up Late is the second one. Wait until you read the third ... It has the most gruesome scene I've ever written.

When you wrote the original series, how fast were the books coming out?
Every month. People don't believe it, but I was actually writing two books a month, a Fear Street book and a Goosebumps book ... The excitement of having these bestsellers was so exhilarating.

The '90s had this obsession with Goosebumps, and shows like Are You Afraid Of The Dark? Why do you think kids were obsessed with being scared?
It was a fad for one thing. Kids want to do what other kids are doing. But when I asked kids what they liked about the books — because I didn't get it — they all said it was because they liked to be scared. I realized that people like to be scared if they know they are safe.



"This is what I do. I've been writing since I was nine. I was this weird kid in my room typing all the time.
R.L. Stine

50 SHADES EFFECT

Self-published erotica scores $7M contract

A million-selling, self-published author has a $7 million book deal.

Forever, a romance imprint of Hachette Book Group, announced this week that it had signed 32-year-old Meredith Wild, whose Hacker erotic series has appeared on numerous bestseller lists.

Forever is reissuing the four current Hacker books as ebooks on Tuesday and as paperbacks on May 12.

The fifth and final book, Hard Love, is coming out in September. Wild's agent, Kimberly Brower, said the deal was worth $7 million.

According to Forever, the series not only has sold more than one million ebooks, but also around 200,000 copies in paper, a rarity for self-published works.

Fans of Fifty Shades of Grey may recognize the Hacker narrative: Recent Harvard graduate and Internet entrepreneur Erica Hathaway falls for controlling billionaire Blake Landon.

Meredith Wild
CONTRIBUTED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOOK NOTES

Google wins patent for spoiler-free surfing

A patent was awarded to Google this week for a program that would track your progress with content such as movies, books and TV shows and block social media posts that could carry spoilers. The patent, as spotted by Quartz, would blur out the potentially offending post, and a warning would pop up, asking the user if they want to read it. It is not clear which social networks Google would hope to integrate with, nor whether the company has real plans to develop the service. AFP

New e-reader weighs the same as a sushi roll

The new Kobo Glo HD, boasting a high-resolution screen, will begin rolling out May 1.It has a 300ppi, 6" Carta E Ink HD touch screen and a one-gigahertz processor, plus four GB of storage and a weight of 180 grams — "about the same as a sushi roll," says the company. The Glo HD will retail for $129.99. AFP

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Books to help you redecorate Page 37

Condos make a play for kids

REAL ESTATE

Family life informs moves into and out of city, experts say

CONDO TRENDS

Duncan McAllister

When two prominent real estate analysts weigh in on condo buying trends, both concur that there is migration both into and out of Toronto's core. Affordability is causing growing families to look further afield for single-family homes, while the condo market still reigns supreme for buyers looking to live, work and play downtown.

Christian Caswell is the president of CustomerInsight, a company that advises the building industry on the latest trends from homebuyers.

"We do psychographic metrics and that's obtaining information about people and their needs, their wants, their beliefs and their attitudes towards living in downtown Toronto," he says.

"Affordability is a major factor in most people's decision-making and most of the time that actually dictates where they search for a new project," explains Caswell.

"Right now I live in Barrie. We're noticing an explosion — realtors are telling us that this is one of the busiest times, hearing from families in the Toronto area looking as far away as Barrie."

Downtown developers are catering to the needs of families with amenities for children. Garrison Point features a children's room with activities for kids of all ages, from toddlers to teens. CONTRIBUTED

Caswell says there is also a strong flow of purchasers migrating to the city's core. "And to do so, it means looking at condo projects rather than other types of projects such as single-family. They're willing to give up that extra room and space and maintenance of the lawn, to get to the downtown core." Ben Myers is senior VP of market research and analytics at Fortress Real Developments. "There's still that dichotomy in the market. You have the young families that would like to have some additional property, they would like to have that two-car garage, that extra space for their kids."

At the same time, says Myers, "There's been a greater interest in families wanting to stay downtown. At least for the first couple years when the kids are young. We're seeing a demand for larger condominiums in maybe older buildings."

Myers says there's actually a push to create more family-friendly amenities downtown. Initiatives like Housing Lab Toronto's new kids' museum and discovery centre will provide children with a world of their own to explore and play.

"Jeanhy Shim has really pushed for greater amenities for the below-five generation of kids; there's very little for them to do downtown."

Ben Meyers, senior VP of market research and analytics at Fortress Real Developments. CONTRIBUTED

Myers says that investors are still optimistic about the downtown condo market.

"In the new market, it's still very much being driven by investors. They still see value in renting suites out and the condo rental market is still going strong," he says.

"They're willing to give up that extra room and space and maintenance of the lawn, to get to the downtown core
Christian Caswell, president of CustomerInsight

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What they're a$king

The term bungalow originated in India and has come to mean a single or one-and-a-half-storey, smaller, semi-detached home. From the biggest cities to the smallest towns, the ubiquitous bungalow is a popular and affordable alternative to small condos or pricier townhomes across Canada.

Duncan McAllister FOR METRO

OUR CITY

$499,900

Toronto

This cute little bungalow is listed for $499,900 and is located at 148 North Bonnington Ave., near Birchmount and St. Clair. It's a well-kept two-bedroom house of solid brick construction on a 40 by 108 foot private lot. Featuring tons of upgrades and a finished basement. Listing agent is Ray Cochrane at RE/MAX Hallmark Realty, 416-699-9292.

$599,000

Ottawa

This two-plus-one bedroom at 200 Dunston Terrace is listed for $599,000. Located in the Solera Community, it's an open-concept bungalow with 18-foot cathedral ceilings and 1,888 square feet of living space, a designer kitchen and stainless appliances. Listing agents, Kelly Ebbs and Kerry Millican are sales representatives with Royal LePage Team Realty, 613-729-9090.

$260,000

Edmonton

Here's a bungalow at 3438 — 120A Ave. in the historic Beacon Heights neighbourhood, just down the road from Abbottsfield Park. This older-style home features a large living room, a wide front window and two bedrooms on the main floor, including a four-piece bathroom. It's located just off of Yellowhead Trail and minutes from the Rundle Golf Club. Listing agent Sheldon Johnston is with Liv Real Estate, 780-486-8655.

$249,900

Halifax

Here is a well cared for two-bedroom plus den bungalow in the west end of Halifax, asking $249,900. The living room boasts refinished hardwood floors and a central fireplace. The eat-in kitchen offers white cabinets. There's a full, unfinished basement with great ceiling height. This home boasts great natural light, and is situated on a spacious lot in a convenient neighbourhood. Listing agent is Meghan Laing with Domus Realty, 902-830-1377.

$309,900

Winnipeg

Here's a stately bungalow with two bedrooms and two bathrooms at 220 Oustic Ave. Situated in a great neighbourhood with schools and shopping nearby. The asking price is $309,900. The layout includes a large eat-in kitchen open to the living room, recreation room and a laundry room. Upgrades include granite countertops and laminate floors. Listing agents Dustin Marks and Danny De Leeuw are with Royal LePage Dynamic Real Estate, 204-989-5000.

$349,900

Calgary

This two-bedroom, one-bathroom bungalow at 236 — 17 Avenue NE, is a great opportunity for first-time buyers who want a house at condo prices. It's located on a desirable street, one block between Centre Street and Edmonton Trail. Priced at $349,900, "it is one of the least expensive single-family homes available within Calgary's inner-city," says listing agent Bob Dawe, with RE/MAX real estate (Central), 403-276-7653.

$850,000

Vancouver

This two-bedroom bungalow at 1042 Adderley St., in North Vancouver just sold at press time for $850,000. The Calverhall home has two bedrooms and one bathroom on the main floor, with a partially finished basement with its own access. It's located on a south-facing, 7,000-square-foot lot with laneway access. Listing agent Cathy Graham is with Royal LePage Sussex, 604-984-9711.

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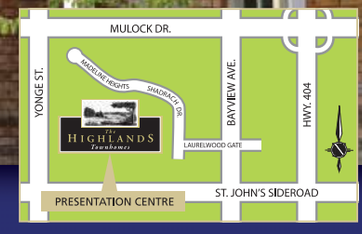

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REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

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2 LIBERTY VILLAGE

Grand opening: Liberty Central condos, Phase Two in Liberty Village. Check it out April 11 from 12 to 5 p.m. Visit the presentation centre at 80 Lynn Williams St.

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3 BATHURST ST.

Preview event: Minto Westside condos. Free food trucks, treats and entertainment. Register online to attend. Head over to 25 Bathurst St. April 11 from 12 to 5 p.m.

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BILD

Renters and new-home buyers face many of the same hurdles

Bryan Tuckey

Earlier today I had the opportunity to sit down with industry experts to participate in a roundtable discussion hosted by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The conversation centred around the recent resurgence in the construction of purpose-built rental properties. While my area of expertise normally lies in the new homes industry, I felt compelled to inform my colleagues that there is significant overlap when it comes to industry issues for both housing types.

What's important to understand is that the rental market is a transitional one, with many residents choosing to rent until they can save up for a down payment and purchase a home. This is becoming increasingly difficult as the price of new homes (and subsequently existing homes) has doubled in the last decade.

Those most affected are first-time buyers like millennials and new Canadians who are now entering the market at a later stage as a result.

Apart from higher down payments, renters are also faced with higher rates which further delays their ability to buy a home. Much like new-home buyers, renters want to live in the same neighbourhoods — ones with the same amenities, conveniences and accessibility to transit — and the cost of building in these neighbourhoods is on the rise.

Some of the reasons for these price increases are the rising cost of land, delays due to an outdated planning approvals process, and a variety of government fees and charges paid by tenants as part of their rent.

As I explained to my colleagues at the roundtable, it is important that both the rental and new homes market coexist in the GTA. We are in the business of building quality, complete communities and purpose-built rentals are just another housing type for GTA residents.

Building homes is building homes, and we will continue to work together with our government partners to ensure that our industry can build homes that people can afford to buy and live in across the GTA.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

“Those most affected are first-time buyers like millennials and new Canadians who are now entering the market at a later stage as a result.

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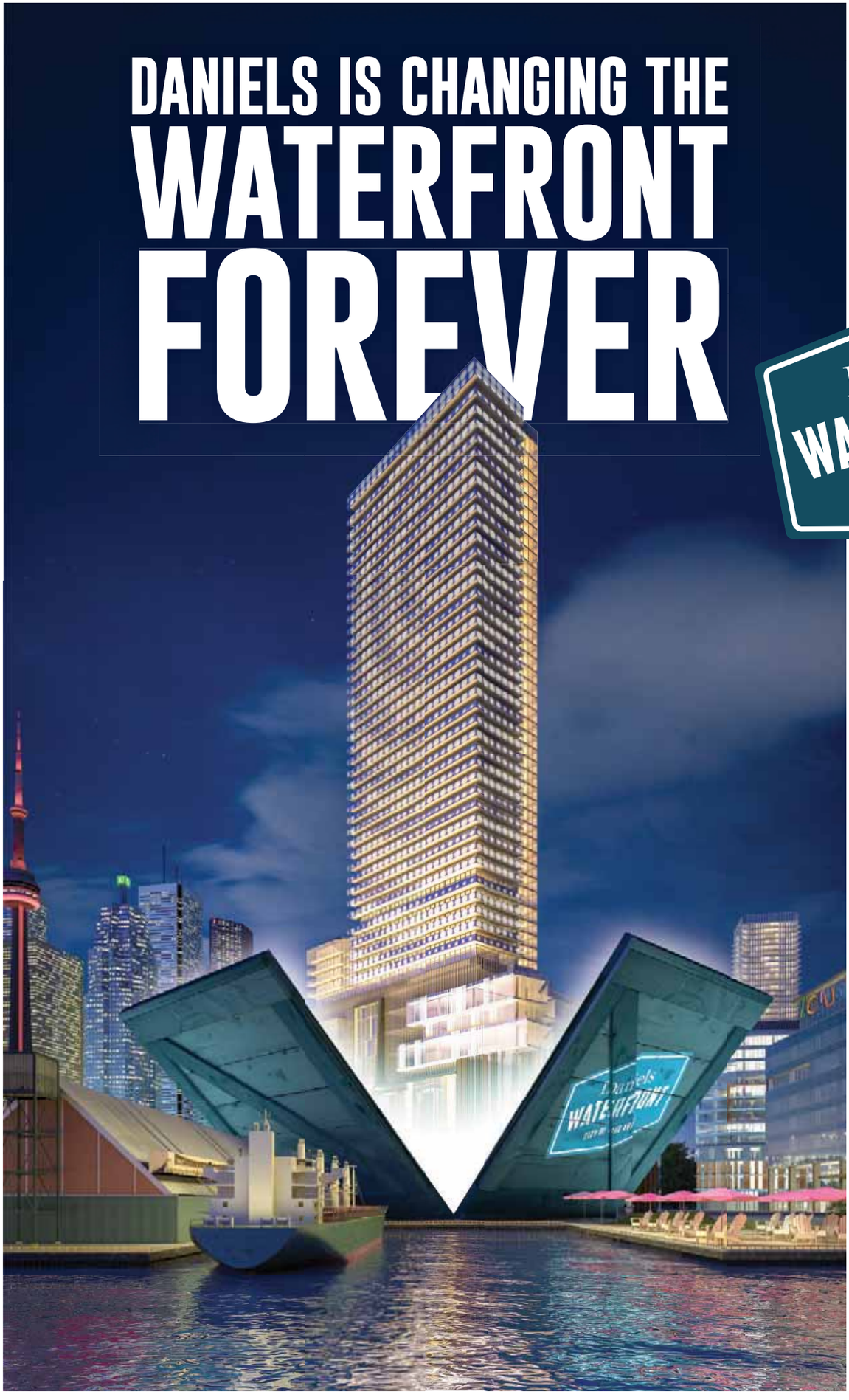

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Just recently topped off, the European-inspired building offers high-end finishes inside, and sharp, contemporary architecture outside. A terrific west-end location, with parklands and trails and local amenities. Suites feature large, translucent glass balconies and terraces articulated over a sleek, precast exterior.

In the neighbourhood

The nearby Woodbine Centre and Albion Centre malls offer a wide selection of shopping, dining, and entertainment choices. Many schools and colleges are close by and the building is surrounded by green space along the Humber River and nearby Humber Valley golf course.

Location and transit

Located along the Humber River Valley, you will have access to the nearby North Etobicoke GO rail station and Kipling TTC bus routes, which gets you into the downtown core quickly. Motorists will enjoy quick access to highways 400, 407 and 427 and the airport is minutes away.

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Architect: E. I. Richmond Architects Inc.
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ADVICE

Navigating parking woes

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan

Q: We purchased a pre-build condo several years ago and the interim occupancy is scheduled for next week. At the time of purchase, we had contracted for a locker and parking spot that were to be determined. Today we did our pre-delivery inspection and found that our parking spot is extremely small and very difficult to access (it seems to be the worst spot in the underground). Before we go to the builder, I would like to know my options.

A: It is frequent that if a builder has some smaller spots, they will market them to purchasers who have smaller vehicles. I would check your agreement of purchase and sale to see if you paid for a regularly sized spot or a smaller one. Also, there are basic size requirements for parking spots under the applicable legislation which extends to access points and turning radius. You may have a claim to have your spot changed or a rebate in your purchase price. If you require a larger than average spot, the builder may approach you with an alternate bigger spot but request that you pay an extra fee for the extra room. I would carefully measure the spot to determine its dimensions and then go back to the builder armed with a polite and firm request. More often than not, you can get this situation worked out if reasonable minds prevail.

Fresh decor trends beginning to bloom

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Design experts suggest some springtime additions

With the arrival of spring comes the ritual of seasonal cleaning and the urge by many to refresh their interiors, front porches and backyards.

"We've had such a long winter, and everybody's ready for some colour," said Erin McLaughlin, editor-in-chief at Style at Home magazine.

McLaughlin said they're seeing bright splashes of colour, such as a gallery of inexpensive prints in vibrant hues. Yellow is the standout shade for spring and pairs well with grey or black.

"It could be an enamel lampshade; it could be that you're taking an old chandelier and spray-painting it bright, bright yellow," she said. "It's really a hot look right now."

She also suggested teaming a favourite hue with complementary colours, like dark and pale blues paired with a fresh green or yellow accent.

McLaughlin recommended homeowners consider painting the front door in a high-gloss colour and updating hardware with brass accents.

Bright yellows and patterns are a great way to spruce up your space for spring. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HOMESENSE

There is no shortage of illuminating options which fuse style with function. Among fresh alternatives are colour-changing LED lights, rechargeable LED cubes and a wireless vase with programmable remote available in a variety of hues.

Homeowners missing the glow of festive lighting can put retro string lights with exposed filament bulbs under an outdoor umbrella or clustered along a fences.

HomeSense spokeswoman Hilary Smyth said florals are showing up on everything from rugs and artwork to tabletop accessories and cushions.

"The key to florals this season is to go bright and bold and pair them with graphic black-and-white stripes or polka dots."

Smyth said block-printed textiles are a decorator favourite, and there are plenty of options for spring with bedding, throw cushions, draperies and placemats in a pretty palette of turquoise, pink, purple and orange.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATURAL LIFESTYLE

From seed to table: How to grow your own veggies

Dream of growing your own tomatoes or zucchini one day? Well, you don't have to wait for a home with a backyard.

"You can easily grow vegetables and greens in an apartment or urban setting," insists natural lifestyle expert Sophie Uliano. "A lot of people think, 'I haven't got any room.' Well, fire escapes, balconies or even a nice, sunny windowsill is perfect."

Uliano, who grew up in the bucolic English countryside before moving to Los Angeles, recommends city dwellers start with these:

Growing your own vegetables and greens is easy when utilizing your apartment's windowsill, balcony or even fire escape. ISTOCK

Cherry tomatoes

"They're fun to grow and they grow really quickly," she says. "Spring is the time to plant them, so you can start (soon)." And if you really want to wow friends at your next get-together, the green expert says pot some basil, too. "Add in mozzarella and you've got little hors d'oeuvres — and you've grown them."

Herbs

"If you buy fresh herbs, they're very expensive. And they come in little plastic packets that don't last very long," says Uliano. Plus, she explains, you hardly ever use the bag up. "You might just need a few leaves for a recipe. So the beauty of growing things like this is you pick just what you need."

Greens

"Baby lettuce or microgreens in stores like Whole Foods are super expensive," stresses Uliano.

"I love growing greens like arugula because it grows very quickly, and you just snip the leaves off, put them in your salad, and they'll regrow. It's the gift that keeps on giving."

TINA CHADHA FOR METRO

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Whip that chaotic kitchen into shape

ORGANIZATION

Experts offer tips for streamlining your space

If you've lived with your kitchen for a while, chances are you've got drawers full of stuff you rarely use and cupboards you just hate. Wouldn't it be nice to have a well-organized kitchen that makes food preparation a pleasure?

Some of the latest ideas and products for whipping a kitchen into shape:

These Flytta carts from Ikea can work as a mobile prep surface as well as moving storage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/IKEA

Divide and conquer

Kitchens function best when divided into work zones, says Josee Berlin, an interior designer for Ikea USA. She cites three: storage (fridge-freezer-pantry), washing (sink-dishwasher) and cooking (oven-cooktop-microwave).

"Work zones give your kitchen a practical structure. Placing them well is crucial to achieving an ergonomic work triangle, with a natural workflow and everything within reach," Berlin says.

If you're planning a new kitchen, place your oven and stove near sinks and worktops so you aren't walking too far with hot pots and pans, she says. A worktop near pantry cabinets and fridge makes unpacking groceries easy.

If space is tight, consider a stainless-steel cart with lockable wheels for portable storage and extra prep space.

Cabinets and drawers

Experts suggest taking an inventory of your kitchen tools, and then outfitting cabinets and drawers so they work for you.

Use adjustable drawer dividers and shelf inserts at different depths.

The drawers in Ikea's new Sektion kitchen system open fully, eliminating that awkward nowheresville at the back of many drawers. A new horizontal hinge design allows for additional slim storage in what was once dead space above the drawer — good for tools, towels and spices (the last of which should be kept in a cool dark space and not on or above the stove).

Tools and gadgets

You don't need a lot of stuff, says Craig Norton, director of operations at the Prince George Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

"Buying a pot and pan for every dish is a mistake. One good large Dutch oven, one sauté pan, one four-quart saucepan, one omelette-crepe pan, one cast-iron pan, and that's it," he advises. He stores lids on the door to free up shelf space.

If you're a baker, consider consolidating those components. "I put all baking ingredients in one bin — flour, sugar, baking soda, etc. — and just haul it out when making something," Norton says. Invest in a slab of cool marble to make pastry rolling easy.

"Gadgets are the biggest waste of space — egg slicers, green bean cutters, all that stuff. Just use a knife," laughs Norton.

Space savers

House Beautiful's editor in chief, Sophie Donelson, likes OXO's stackable Greensaver containers, which have carbon filters in the lid to reduce spoilage. But her favourite small space storage solutions are from Joseph Joseph.

"Just about everything they make either folds, collapses or nests to save room in the drawer. I wanted to toss all my existing tools and start fresh when I saw these," she says.

Measuring cups, a whisk and nesting utensils are part of the colorful collection. Find the collection at josephjoseph.com

Hanging rails with "S" shaped hooks provide extra storage without taking up real estate. Sturdy racks can hold pots and pans, plates, utensils, sieves and even a small herb garden.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ikea Sektion cabinets utilize every inch of space. IKEA

FOR ALL TO SEE

Don't hide your tools

If your kitchen is a workhorse, don't be afraid to keep things out in plain view. Your food processor, scale, utensils and blender can be right out where you need them. A lazy susan kept right next to the stove with oil, a dish of salt and pepper grinder is also a good idea.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOME GADGETS

If you fix it, they will come: Events promote sustainability

Is your toaster toast? Old lamp on the blink? Sounds like a job for the Repair Fair.

Volunteer "fixers" in Philadelphia have started offering their skills for free in an effort to promote resourcefulness and sustainability, and to help build a sense of community. Not to mention the satisfaction of mending broken gadgets and appliances, from clocks to typewriters.

But the events are also about "getting people to rethink and not dumping stuff in the landfill just because they can't be bothered," said Philly Fixers Guild co-founder Holly Logan. "Instead of just going out and buying a new one, (put) in some time and elbow grease."

A recent fair drew people from as far as the New Jersey suburbs bearing busted heaters, stereos and kitchen mixers. About half the items were repaired on the spot by tinkerers whose backgrounds ranged from self-taught to a field engineer for Lockheed Martin.

It's an increasingly popular concept. Similar do-it-yourself gatherings called Repair Cafés, affiliated with a Dutch non-profit, have sprung up worldwide over the past few years. More than 700 now operate globally, up from 275 in 2013, according to its website.

The guild-sponsored Repair Fair has been held three times since last fall at various locations in Philadelphia. Its most recent event — held on a recent chilly spring day at Greensgrow Farm — was also its largest so far, attracting about 125 people.

Logan and co-founder Ben Davis describe the fair as a logical outgrowth of their conservation and neighbourhood improvement efforts in the city's Kensington, Port Richmond and Fishtown sections.

It works a bit like a hospital emergency room: Guests fill out a form at an intake table, called triage, where the patient (broken item) gets a preliminary evaluation. The case is then assigned to one of nearly 20 fixers, whose specialties range from small electronics and circuit boards to welders, woodworkers, jewelry fixers and people who sew.

"A lot of things aren't made to be fixed, unfortunately," said fixer Ron Baile. "But we'll look at everything that comes in, and we'll try."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEED SOMETHING REPAIRED?

Repair cafes around the city:

- Repair Café Toronto 791, St. Clair W. Ave.
- Repair Café Sheridan Davis Campus 7899 McLaughlin Rd.
- Repair Café Sheridan Hazel McCallion Campus 4180 Duke of York Blvd.
- Repair Café Sheridan Trafalgar Campus 1430 Trafalgar Rd.
- Visit: repaircafe.org

Fixer John Metes examines a broken Sunbeam mixer at the Repair Fair at Greensgrow in Philadelphia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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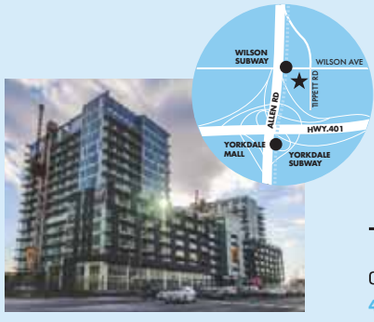

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Trust us, it might feel good to pick up that broom. ISTOCK

Spring cleaning is good for the soul

ADVICE

Season-worthy tips to get rid of the old and bring in the new

Marianne Hayes
Metro in New York City

Cleaning out all the junk tucked away in the nooks and crannies of your home can be a daunting task. But parting with things like old knickknacks, clothing and receipts actually comes with some serious perks.

De-cluttering your home is associated with a wide range of mental and physical health benefits, according to a 2007 New York Times report.

With a new season upon us, spring cleaning represents the perfect opportunity to purge your home of clutter — and bring some fresh, new energy into your space. Professional organizer Jeni Aron shares her best tips for tackling the job.

A great piece of advice? Approach spring cleaning bit by bit, working in one-hour increments until your home is de-cluttered.

Start with your closet

With the cold weather (hopefully) behind us, now is the time to reevaluate your winter wardrobe. When it comes to coats, boots and scarves, identify any items that need hemming, repairing or dry cleaning.

"If anything needs to be repaired, do that now so that it's ready for next season," says Aron. "And if you're done with that coat and it's seen better days, then it's time to donate it."

Donating and selling old clothes can actually be a killer way to bring in some extra income. Look for consignment shops and thrift stores in your area that pay for donations. If you strike out, giving them away at least comes with a nice tax writeoff.

As for the winter stuff you are keeping, store it up high so that it's out of sight in your day-to-day closet.

"And take a good look at your spring wardrobe from last year," Aron adds.

"Are you still excited about it? Are these items you would purchase today if you were in a store? Does anything need to be repaired or hemmed? Now is the time, before the season truly kicks in, to take care of all those little things so that you're in good shape for when it gets warm."

Replace your bedding

Ditch the heavy winter bedding for a lighter, fresher option that reflects the new season. Aron recommends storing heavier bedding and opting for either a floral print or an all-white setup, which both reflect the crispness of spring.

"Now is also a good time to do rug cleaning, so it isn't a bad idea to either hire a professional or do it yourself," she adds. "And now that you're going to have your windows open more, think about changing over heavy curtains for something lighter and breezier."

In other words, choose accessories that will optimize natural light and fresh air.

DETOXING

Clean out your kitchen

If you haven't done it in a while, take the time now to clean out your fridge. This includes detoxing your food items and trashing old products. "Give your refrigerator a good clean out because we're now entering the fresh fruits and vegetables stage, so you want to have a nice clean fridge for all of that," says Aron. Revitalizing your kitchen also includes taking a close look at your cooking supplies. It may be time to replace glassware, plates, and other products that are worn out.

The best reads for your renovation

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes

Whether contemplating a redecoration of your condo, a basement renovation or planning a new kitchen or bath, there's a book to get you primed for every project. I went to Chapters Indigo and found these helpful reads.

METRO PICK

COLOURS

A Colorful Home: Create Lively Palettes For Every Room

Susan Hable, 2015, Chronicle Books

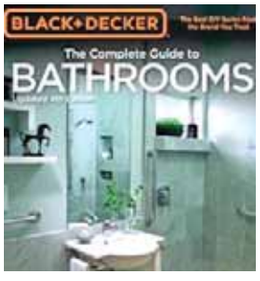
The author takes the simplest elements from nature and turns those ideas and colours into beautiful rooms. Bright confetti can inspire a multi-tiled wall of bright tile in a bathroom or autumn leaves can inspire a golden-toned family room retreat. From fabric to paint to wallpaper (and more), you will be inspired to incorporate colour into your next decorating project.

KITCHENS

House Beautiful Kitchens: Creating a Beautiful Kitchen of Your Own

Lisa Cregan, 2012, Hearst Publishers

A huge array of kitchen styles from famous designers allow the reader to soak up hundreds of inspiring design ideas. There is a section in the book called Stalking The Look where alternative products are suggested in order to help you borrow the ideas in a more affordable manner. This book is less hands-on practicality and more about discovering inspiration.



BATHROOMS

Black & Decker The Complete Guide To Bathrooms

Updated 4th Edition, 2015, Cool Springs Press

This book is for the handy do-it-yourself type and for those that want to be able to speak a language of renovation with their contractor throughout the bathroom process.

DECORATING

Domino: The Book of Decorating

Dara Caponigro, Deborah Needleman and Sara Ruffin

This is one of the best decorating books on the market; chock full of decor tips, rules and ideas, plus stylist tricks to help finish off a room in style. All from seasoned decorating magazine editors and stylists.

BASEMENTS

Design Ideas for Basements, 2nd Edition

Wayne Kalyn, Fox Chapel Publishing, 2008

This book offers expert advice on tackling the practical side of renovating a basement (mould, heating, permits, etc) and then gives hundreds of stylish ideas.

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metro
First-time Homebuyers
Thursday, April 9, 2015

Thinking of buying a house? Take note

Not everything is obvious when buying your first home, so be alert to ensure you aren't caught off guard. SHUTTERSTOCK

TIPS

To do and not to do when considering your first home

Stephanie Orford
For Metro

Are you reaching the cusp of financial stability (finally!) and considering buying your first home? You aren't out of the woods just yet.

Buying a home can be rewarding, but there are some dos and don'ts to consider, and not all of them are obvious, said Darcy Mcleod, president of the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver.

Here are some key steps and pitfalls to watch out for on the way to owning your first home.

FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD

First-time homebuyers will sometimes go out looking at homes before they understand the total costs of buying and owning a home, Mcleod said.

"They'll fall in love with something and find out that they can't afford it, and then the places that they can afford just don't measure up. Make sure you have your financial ducks in a row."

The antidote is to get pre-approved for a mortgage from your lender — a financial institution or mortgage broker.

Also, consider the nitty gritty costs, including mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance, utility costs, strata payments and maintenance. Find them all out and do the math before you commit.

ANALYZE YOUR NEEDS

"A mistake a lot of people make is they look at all the shiny pictures on the Internet without thinking of what's truly important in a home," Mcleod said.

This pitfall can waste a lot of time and energy if you are looking at homes that don't suit your lifestyle needs.

DON'T BE A STARRY-EYED IDEALIST

The average first-time homebuyer stays in their home for about five to seven years — not for a lifetime.

When you are looking for a place, if you aim for the absolutely, perfect, forever home, you are probably imposing too many barriers on yourself, Mcleod said.

DON'T OFFEND THE SELLER WITH A LOWBALL OFFER

"The tendency to want to get a really good deal on something can sometimes cause you to get less of a good deal," Mcleod said. "If you're buying a resale home, you have to understand the seller will have some emotional attachment to the home. Your realtor can help you establish what a reasonable value for the home is."

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE INSPECTING

Before you make an offer, you need to know what costs could rear their ugly heads down the road. Get a good home inspector to help give you the downlow. For a condo, that means making sure whole-building components such as plumbing and heating are in good condition. Detached homes come with a Pandora's box of issues to watch for — corroded oil tanks buried in the backyard, leaky poly-B plumbing pipes in some '80s homes, or incorrectly installed aluminum wiring that can pose a fire hazard.

Finding the perfect fit to make it home sweet home

A TD survey shows young people prefer urban living, while older Canadians lean towards small town or rural living. SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGES

The age of the suburb prevails.

According to according a recent TD survey, when it comes to raising a family, the preferred place to live is the 'burbs.

Despite the consensus, the survey did find a generational divide, with younger Canadians (or 33 per cent of those surveyed) preferring urban living, while older Canadians (or 32 per cent of those surveyed) opting for small town or rural living. The suburbs were the preference for 31 per cent of respondents.

It's about the importance of "homefitting" — or finding the right home for whatever stage of life you are at," said Kate Taylor, TD's senior manager of real estate secured lending.

"For example, many younger people clearly see the appeal of urban living, but that can come at a price, which makes it even more important to start saving for the home of your dreams as early as possible," adds Taylor.

Although millennials at 38 per cent and gen-X at 36 per cent were more likely to live in a major city, congestion and the high cost of urban living were the main reasons they would be deterred from raising a family there. They would, however, stay in the city, if they could find a family-sized condo, the study said.

"People buying a home in the city, whether it's a condo or a house, need to keep their options open in case they want to move later when their family situation changes," Taylor said.

As trading a smaller home for a bigger one takes careful planning, Taylor recommends products such as tax-free savings accounts and RRSPs, to take advantage of the federal government's Home Buyers' Plan, to prepare for higher monthly mortgage payments, property taxes and other associated costs.

METRO NEWS

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Buying a home: The first of many big-ticket expenditures

MONEY

Be sure to budget for all those extras

Camilla Cornell
For Metro

Homebuyers would be wise to budget for unforeseen expenditures, such as improvements to insulation. SHUTTERSTOCK

When Erik and Theresa Tsang bought a three-bedroom townhome in Newmarket, Ont., in 2012, they had already decided it wasn't their forever home.

"We didn't want to put too much money into it," Erik Tsang said. "It was already in fairly decent condition and, because we were planning to have a family, we knew we wanted some place bigger."

Those good intentions didn't hold.

"We had to buy some furniture because ours wasn't enough to fill the space," Tsang said. "And some of what we had didn't fit in the rooms we'd intended for it to go."

The price tag for furniture — about $10,000. Replacing the worn and dated stove cost another $600. Then the air conditioning unit broke, which cost $200 to fix. But the biggest expense of all was the water heater. When it stopped working, the couple was told the piping that fed it was no longer up to code and would have to be replaced. Portions of drywall had to be removed in order to reach the pipes. There went another $1,000.

"Buying a home is an expensive and stressful experience," said Jeffrey Schwartz, executive director of the non-profit Consolidated Credit Counselling Services of Canada. "The sticker price on the home and the closing costs are just the first steps."

In fact, a recent analysis of new homebuyers by the National Association of Home Builders in the U.S. found a home purchase typically triggers a flurry of other expenditures for appliances, furnishings and remodelling. During the first year after closing, the typical buyer spends on average $5,288 on furnishings, $4,279 on renovations and $2,769 on appliances.

Here is how to make sure you don't end up sinking under the weight of debt:

TRY TO CALCULATE THE LONG-TERM EXPENSES OF RUNNING THE HOUSE

"Typically, when you buy a bigger house, you've got bigger expenses," Schwartz said. "You have a bigger roof and furnace to replace and bigger bills for heat and hydro."

If you haven't compiled a budget, now is the time. You can find a basic budget sheet at consolidatedcredit.ca.

COUNT ON EMERGENCIES

Tsang's home was only 10 years old, but "even though we had a home inspector come in and look at it, they're not going to spot things like cracks in the pipes," he said. "You should probably have a buffer in your budget for when things go wrong."

Schwartz suggested having three to six months of living expenses in an emergency fund. Toronto real estate agent Collette Skelly said a small line of credit also does the trick.

PUT IN SOME SWEAT EQUITY

The Tsangs painted their home themselves. Skelly suggested bringing in a gang of friends to do what has to be done. "A case of beer goes a long way," she said.

OPT FOR GENTLY USED

Those ads for new condos with perfectly Zen rooms aren't realistic, Skelly said. "People don't really live like that. They bring in furniture from their own place and from grandma and the parents' house."

Her advice: Make do for a while.

"You don't want to buy a home, a condo or furniture unless you're sure you're going to like it for at least seven years."

You may even leave a few rooms empty. "I have tons of friends who moved into a house and didn't have any furniture in one of the rooms," Schwartz said.

PRIORITIZE THE RENOS

"Paint it all white," Skelly said. "Maybe get a new countertop and replace the terrible old stove and then leave the house alone for a year while you get used to those mortgage payments."

That will give you time to decide on your biggest priorities, whether that's a couple of new windows, a new floor or a countertop. "By that time, you may need a new roof," Skelly said.

DON'T GET HUNG UP ON THIS YEAR'S MODEL

Next year, that model will be passé, Schwartz said. "It costs money to be a first adopter."

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Are you looking for a specific item, whether it's a couch or a dishwasher? Educate yourself about what features and brand you are seeking. Check out flyers and websites and make a few calls to stores. Online price comparison websites can be a great resource, too, particularly for appliances. Good Canadian sites for electronics include shopbot.ca and pricegrabber.ca.

KNOW WHEN TO SHOP

January is especially good for white sales on sheets and bedding, as well as TVs. Refrigerators often drop in price in May, as new models begin appearing. Home-decor prices dip in July. It's also a good month to buy furniture as the latest designs are due to hit the showroom floor in the near future. Ask "is that your best price?" You can't bargain for everything, but you would be surprised how often you can get a discount when you use those five little words.

Questions about a new-built home

When Sharon and David Laws bought a new home in a London, Ont., development, they admit they underwent a baptism by fire.

"You have to make so many decisions, so quickly. And what you see in the model home is not what you're going to get," Sharon Laws said. "Often, they have features like beautiful hardwood floors, crown moulding and trade ceilings. But you're not going to get those things unless you pay a lot of extra money."

Read on for the essential questions to ask when buying a new build.

1 Does the builder have a good reputation? Ask friends and family for recommendations, said Frank Oliva, who recently downsized to a townhome in London, Ont. And find out how long the builder has been in business. "Ours had been around for 30 or 40 years," he said. "If they're bad, they don't exist for long." Gary Edwardes, a realtor and former builder, said to visit one of your builder's construction sites and get input from other homeowners who live in previously built subdivisions.

2 What is the average time to build? In larger developments or condo buildings, construction of your home may not begin until a certain percentage of units have been pre-sold, Edwardes said. That can mean a long delay before you take possession. And, yet, moving into the first phase of a project can mean coping with dust and dirt while the other homes are built. "When we bought our first home, we were the first house," Oliva said. "We lived in construction for five or six years." Ask for a schedule — including when the sod will go down — so you will know roughly what to expect. But recognize it's never carved in stone, Edwardes said. "You have to be willing to be flexible."

3 Can I get the floor plan down on paper? "Usually, you'd want a proper floor plan drawn up for you to sign," Edwardes said. Make sure it includes room dimensions and plan details. But recognize, he said, that "these are approximate. When we go to build there may be differences on-site that we can't do anything about." Still, if your floor plan is dramatically different than what you agreed on, you may be able to negotiate a discount or even ditch the deal.

4 What is included in the price? Start with the understanding that most of the finishes you see in that tricked-out model home are going to be upgrades, Laws said. Translation — they will cost you money. Ask what the average buyer has spent on upgrades and try to build some of those extras into the price at the point of negotiation. "You're not going to get anything after you've signed that contract," Laws said.

5 How many walk-throughs will I have? Most builders allow you to go through the house at least once before the drywall goes up. That's when you might realize, for instance, that the standard number of pot lights is going to leave your basement dark and uninviting. Or you need an extra plug or cable outlet. "You're going to have to pay for it," Edwardes said, but it will cost a lot more later. "I wouldn't buy a house from a builder who wouldn't allow at least one walk-through."

Make sure you see and sign a proper floor plan that includes room dimensions and plan details. SHUTTERSTOCK

CAMILLA CORNELL/FOR METRO

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Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Blue Jays game in New York

Thursday, April 9, 2015

Sens cause delay in playoff plans

NHL

Comeback win forces rivals to sweat out a wild finish

The playoff chase in the NHL's Eastern Conference has gone from compelling to downright wacky.

Five teams, fighting for four spots, are now separated by just three points after Tuesday's thrilling night of action. The race tightened significantly because of Ottawa's stirring rally from a three-goal deficit against Pittsburgh. The Senators won 4-3 in overtime, pulling even with Boston for the second wild card and within one point of the slumping Penguins.

"We've got to wipe this one away," Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby said. "We've got two games left to earn the right to play in the playoffs. It's up to us now, but we've got to forget this one pretty quick."

Pittsburgh hasn't missed the playoffs since Crosby's rookie season. When he scored 10 seconds into the game Tuesday, you could almost feel the sense of relief among fans of the Penguins, Red Wings and Bruins — three glamour franchises that suddenly have to sweat out a wild finish to the regular season because of Ottawa's late surge.

Pittsburgh led 3-0 after the first period Tuesday, but the Senators came back in dramatic fashion. Since Feb. 10, Ottawa is 21-4-4.

The New York Rangers, Montreal, Tampa Bay and Washington have clinched playoff spots in the East. Of the remaining five contenders, the Islanders lead the pack with 98 points, followed by Detroit (97), Pittsburgh (96), Boston (95 before playing in Washington on Wednesday night) and Ottawa (95). Each of those teams has two games remaining.

If the Penguins had held on to win in regulation, Pittsburgh, Detroit and the Islanders would all be in the playoffs. Instead, none of them clinched anything.

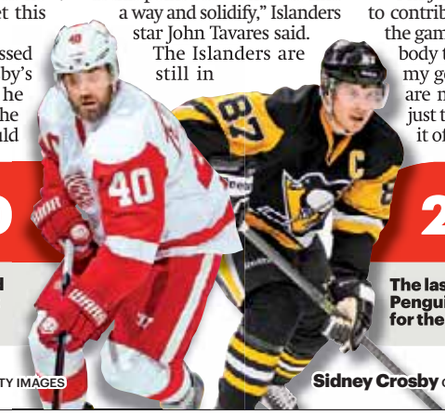
"We've had a heck of a season at this point but we have to find a way and solidify," Islanders star John Tavares said. The Islanders are still in a comfortable spot, but they went through a thoroughly maddening evening. Needing only to make it to overtime to clinch their second playoff berth in the last eight seasons, they rallied from a 4-1 deficit in the third period and scored the tying goal with 28 seconds left. Then Philadelphia's Brayden Schenn flipped a routine shot from near the blue-line that somehow slipped past goalie Jaroslav Halak and into the net with 2.1 seconds remaining, giving the Flyers a 5-4 win.

Detroit had its own problems with Carolina before rallying in the third for a 3-2 victory, but once the Penguins failed to beat Ottawa in regulation, the Red Wings couldn't clinch Tuesday and neither could Pittsburgh. An overtime win by the Penguins would have been enough to put the Islanders in the playoffs, but that didn't happen, either. Mark Stone's OT goal won it for the Senators.

"I'm just thankful to be able to contribute at those times of the game," Stone said. "Everybody that's contributing on my goals are the guys that are making the plays. I'm just the one that's finishing it off." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1990

The last time the Red Wings didn't make it to the post-season.



Henrik Zetterberg GETTY IMAGES

2006

The last time the Penguins failed to qualify for the playoffs.

Sidney Crosby GETTY IMAGES

> **I'm just thankful to be able to contribute at those times of the game.**
> Mark Stone

The Senators' Mark Stone celebrates with teammate Marc Methot after scoring in overtime against the Penguins at the Canadian Tire Centre on Tuesday. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Otters file for bankruptcy
The Erie Otters filed for bankruptcy on Wednesday, a move owner Sherry Bassin insisted would not affect the Ontario Hockey League team's immediate future.

Bassin said Erie Hockey Club Limited filed for voluntary Chapter 11 bankruptcy as a way to prevent Edmonton Oilers owner Daryl Katz's Ontario Major Junior Hockey Corporation from holding its own private sale of the Otters and their assets. Bassin still plans to sell the team and pay off creditors, including Katz, but said filing was necessary to protect the organization.

The Otters open their second-round playoff series at home Thursday against the London Knights. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jury asks about weapon charges in Hernandez trial
A jury ended deliberations for a second day Wednesday in the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez, who is charged in the shooting death of another man, Odin Lloyd.

Aaron Hernandez THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jurors asked questions to clarify two weapon and ammunition possession charges Hernandez faces in addition to the murder charge.

Jurors asked whether they needed to find Hernandez intended to use the item. The judge said no. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rose back in Bulls lineup
Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose is back from his latest knee injury.

The Bulls star started Wednesday against the Orlando Magic and played just over six minutes in the first quarter before taking his first break.

Rose was playing for the first time since Feb. 23. He has missed 20 games since undergoing a minor operation Feb. 27 on his right knee.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Wednesday night's Raptors game in Charlotte and for results of the Maple Leafs' trip to Columbus to face the Blue Jackets.

D is for dreadful with TFC

MLS

Reds averaging two goals against a game this season

Members of the Chicago Fire block a free kick by Toronto FC's Sebastian Giovinco on Saturday in Bridgeview, Ill. Toronto failed to replicate a successful wall as Chicago scored the winning goal off a free kick. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Toronto FC returned to training Wednesday, looking to steady a ship rocked by injuries, suspensions and porous defensive play.

In the wake of a 3-2 loss to Chicago, Toronto (1-3-0) has now conceded eight goals this season. Only Philadelphia (0-3-2) has leaked more with nine in five games.

"A frustrating weekend," said Toronto coach Greg Vanney. "Actually a frustrating couple of weeks."

Toronto's average of two goals conceded a game is worst in the league. And it puts Toronto on pace for 68 goals against, one less than Colorado's single-season record of 69 (over 32 games) in 1998.

Improvement is expected once the revolving door on defence stops swinging.

Vanney, a patient man, has yet to take his team to a public woodshed. But he did not mince words Wednesday.

In going over the goals yielded in Chicago, Vanney connected a lot of deficient defensive dots.

"It's not one error, it's three or four collective errors that we know better," Vanney said. "Guys have responsibilities and roles. They need to fulfil them."

One example was Jeff Larentowicz's 68th-minute free kick, which proved to be the winning goal. Fullback Warren Creavalle had been sent off on the play and Vanney said his 10-man team failed to adapt to the free kick. One player is usually designated as a "blocker" — to rush the kicker — but he went elsewhere to fill the hole left by Creavalle.

Couple that with a poorly constructed wall and Chicago was celebrating.

Goalie Joe Bendik has 19 saves this season, second only to San Jose's David Bingham (20 in five games). But even Bendik did not get a pass Wednesday.

"I think he's made some good saves and he's not made some saves that I think he would be the first one to say that he probably should save," said Vanney. "Joe is a part of the defence, as we are all part of the defence as a team, and we've got to be better.

> **"You can't have mistakes over and over from an individual basis. And other guys maybe have to get opportunities."**
> Greg Vanney

"We've allowed too many goals and too many what I would call fairly easy goals because we've had the right number of people round the ball or around the play to deal with it and we haven't."

Toronto has a bye week to get it right before visiting FC Dallas on April 18, the fifth of seven straight away league games due to ongoing BMO Field renovations.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCCER

Sky Blues to take on Reds in Toronto

Toronto FC will host English Premier League powerhouse Manchester City in a friendly on May 27.

Led by Sergio Aguero, David Silva, Vincent Kompany and England's starting goalkeeper Joe Hart, Man City is fourth in the Premier League, one point behind rival Manchester United.

Man City has won four First Division or Premier League titles, most recently in the 2013-14 season.

Tickets went on sale to season-ticket holders on Wednesday. They go on sale to the general public on April 16.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sergio Aguero, left, and David Silva are scheduled to come to BMO Field at the end of May for a friendly vs. Toronto FC. GETTY IMAGES

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GRAND SLAM IN RORY'S PLAN

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland shoots from a fairway bunker during Wednesday's practice round in Augusta, Ga. ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

THE MASTERS

No. 1 McIlroy looks to add Green Jacket to collection

Tiger Woods was the exception. Ben Crenshaw was closer to the rule.

Woods joined up with Crenshaw to play the back nine Wednesday on the final day of practice for a Masters that is shaping up as a mystery in many ways. They are Masters champions with multiple green jackets. What separates them is how soon they got them.

Crenshaw had to suffer a little before he could celebrate his first major. He was a runner-up four times in the majors before he broke through in 1984 at Augusta. He won another one in 1995.

TIGER'S TALE

The expectations are higher than ever for Rory McIlroy, and lower than ever for Tiger Woods, who is competing for the first time since Feb. 5. That's when he walked off the course at Torrey Pines to work on a game that had become so bad that hardly anyone recognized it.

But Woods has shown much improvement in three days of practice.

Woods wasted no time. He won the first major he played as a pro by setting 20 records in his 1997 Masters victory, and that was only the start. He already had eight majors before he recorded his first runner-up finish. He had four green jackets before he turned 30.

More players have taken the Crenshaw route and on that list is Rory McIlroy, who returns to the scene of his greatest lesson in a major.

He was a 21-year-old with a four-shot lead at the Masters in 2011, ready to be crowned the next big thing in golf, when he shot 80 in the final round. He handled the collapse with remarkable poise, said he would learn from his mistakes. And then he posted scoring records at Congressional two months later in the U.S. Open.

"A lot of that win has to do with what happened at Augusta," McIlroy said.

The Masters is even more meaningful now.

It's the only major keeping him from the career Grand Slam, and McIlroy will be the clear favourite when the Masters begins Thursday.

"Everything I've done, all the work I've done gearing up for this week has been good," McIlroy said. "I'm just ready for the gun to go off on Thursday."

McIlroy paid a steep price four years ago and found redemption right away in other majors. Still missing, however, is the green jacket.

He'll try to rectify that starting Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods walks across a green as his girlfriend Lindsey Vonn and caddies for the day, Woods' son Charlie and daughter Sam, look on Wednesday. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

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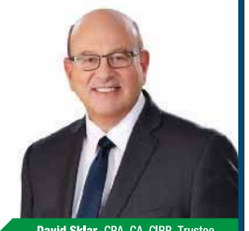

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Directions

1. To make the burgers, combine the ground beef, egg, dried basil and oregano, breadcrumbs, ketchup, garlic, onion and feta in a large bowl and shape into 4 burger patties. Grill or sauté in a pan lightly coated with cooking spray. Cook on one side for 7 minutes, then turn over and cook 3 to 5 more minutes or just until beef is done.

2. Combine all the sauce ingredients in a food processor and purée until smooth.

3. Serve the burgers with the sauce and garnish with fresh basil or parsley.

Ingredients
Burgers:
- 1 lb extra-lean ground beef
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 3 tbsp seasoned dry breadcrumbs
- 3 tbsp ketchup
- 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese (about 1 oz)

Sauce:
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese (about 1 oz)
- 1/4 cup light cream cheese (about 2 oz), softened
- 3 tbsp low-fat plain yogurt (or sour cream)
- 1/2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp water
- 1/2 tsp dried basil

Garnish (optional):
- 3 Tbsp chopped fresh basil or parsley

Nutrition per serving (per burger)
- Calories 257
- Protein 29 g
- Carbohydrates 11 g
- Fibre 0.9 g
- Total fat 11 g
- Saturated fat 4.8 g
- Cholesterol 126 mg
- Sodium 370 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

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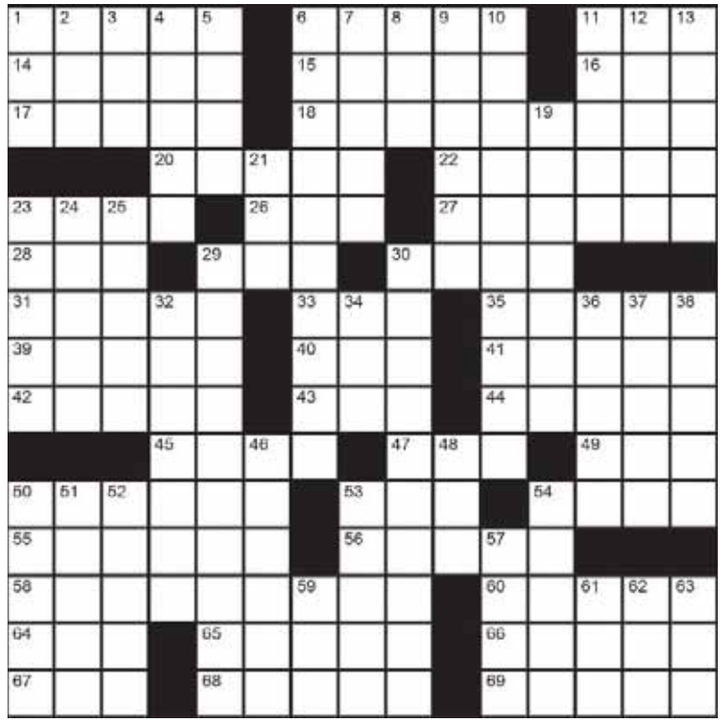

ACROSS
1. "Mr. D" on CBC actor Mr. Savage
6. DOB's 'B'
11. 'Box of chocolates' movie character ...his initials-sharers
14. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
15. "It's _ __ country!"
16. 'Motor' suffix
17. __ charge (Held the helm)
18. Ship's hull creatures
20. Green hue
22. Farine d'__ (French for 'oat flour')
23. Maintenance
26. Dining surface [abbr.]
27. The __ (Canadian a cappella group)
28. Overseas MTV honour [acronym]
29. Bzzz-er
30. Where to look in the song "Misty": 2 wds.
31. Persian Gulf emirate
33. Small, cute-style
35. Make corrections
39. "It's _ __ from God!"
40. French article
41. South American animal
42. Excavated again
43. Plymouth _ _ _ (Vintage car)
44. Pointer Sisters member
45. Scintilla
47. Whole
49. Weep
50. Persuade with pressure
53. _ _ _ Park (Pittsburgh Pirates ballpark)
54. Manipulates
55. Gospel singer Mr. Crouch
56. More peculiar
58. Old show on MuchMusic, "Pepsi __ __" (More at #10-Down!)
60. Toward the stern
64. Victor Hugo play, __ Blas
65. 'Tooth'-meaning prefix
66. Princess Beatrice's mum
67. Prince Valiant's son
68. "So long!": 2 wds.
69. Gateway

DOWN
1. "Oh, yeah..." in e-mail
2. British singer Rita
3. 'Vigor' suffix
4. "Survivor" team
5. Fine-tune
6. Song by Canadian troubadour Raffi: 2 wds.
7. Patsy Cline's "_ __ to Pieces"
8. Basic educ.
9. Renter
10. Music genre for #58-Across: 2 wds.
11. Literature leaf
12. Canadian DJ/producer Mr. Morrison
13. Common mailing requests
19. Camping stove company
21. Path [abbr.]
23. Tree variety
24. Entertain
25. Like the Stephen King dog Cujo
29. Players mark them when letter/number combos are called: 2 wds.
30. Fort __ National Historic Site of Canada, in BC
32. "__, the Wrath of God" (1972) directed by Werner Herzog
34. Chg. card percentage
36. Sagas
37. Gunpowder component
38. Horse-hauled carts
46. Small chuckle
48. TV type
50. Director Frank
51. "__ __ Merry Way" (1948)
52. "A Girl Like You" by __ Collins
53. Sulky
54. Country star Keith
57. Slacken
59. Counter's beginning...
61. Pottery/paintings
62. Distant
63. Your, biblically

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
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Taurus April 21 - May 21
Either you will set your sights too high or set them too low over the next 24 hours. You're in one of your "take it to the limit" moods!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You usually get what you want in the long-term — your powers of persuasion are legendary — and you will find it easier than ever to get what you want today. You'll be amazed what others agree to.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You are negotiating from a position of strength, so don't let anyone offer you less than you are worth. That applies to the work front, where someone in a position of authority will cheat you if they think they can.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you get the urge to try something different over the next 24 hours then by all means follow your instincts. Leo may be a "fixed" sign but in fact you can be quite adventurous.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Tell others exactly what you think today and, if some people don't like it, that's just too bad. Don't be offensive for the sake of it but make sure everyone knows your views.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The ball is very much in someone else's court at the moment and all you can do is wait. Don't get impatient if they take their time about it because that will encourage them to go even slower.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will work extremely hard over the next 24 hours – you will get twice as much done as you usually manage. But are you working for yourself or are you working for other people?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Whatever you start now will bring success in the not too distant future, so make it something you can look back on with pride. It's time to let your creative side come to the fore.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Try not to be too critical of other people today, because however well meaning your comments may be if they're too negative they won't go down well. Loved ones, especially, need your support, so be positive.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You won't find it difficult to get what you want today but don't forget if someone makes you a loan there will come a time when you have to pay it back. Think ahead.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Start something new today, something that will make you popular and make you some serious money. But don't get impatient. This is a long-term project.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

7				5				
	4					9		
		2			6		7	
				9	8	1		
8			6		7			5
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GLS model shown♦

2015 ACCENT 5-DOOR L MANUAL

2014 Accent "Highest Ranked Small Car in Initial Quality in the U.S.ᵟ"

FINANCE FOR ONLY **$40** WEEKLY

AT **0%** FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN†

DEALER INVOICE PRICE OF $14,591‡ INCLUDES $636 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION FEES. PLUS HST.

HWY: 9.3L/100 KM
CITY: 11.6L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

2015 TUCSON GL FWD MANUAL

2015 CLEAROUT

FINANCE FOR ONLY **$64** WEEKLY

AT **0%** FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN†

DEALER INVOICE PRICE OF $23,419‡ INCLUDES $473 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION FEES. PLUS HST.

HWY: 9.8L/100 KM
CITY: 12.9L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

2015 SANTA FE SPORT 2.4L FWD

ALSO AVAILABLE IN 7 PASSENGER SEATING

FINANCE FOR ONLY **$76** WEEKLY

AT **0%** FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN†

DEALER INVOICE PRICE OF $27,514‡ INCLUDES $1,313 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION FEES. PLUS HST.

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 9.8L/100 KM▼

Sport 2.0T model shown♦

THE ALL-NEW 2015 SONATA GL AUTO

FINANCE FOR ONLY **$68** WEEKLY

AT **0%** FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN†

DEALER INVOICE PRICE OF $24,575‡ INCLUDES $1,252 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION FEES. PLUS HST.

2015 BEST NEW FAMILY CAR (OVER $30,000)

AJAC www.ajac.ca

AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

NO CHARGE 2015 SONATA HYBRID From a 2015 Sonata GLS°. See dealer for details.

Visit HyundaiCanada.com for details on our entire line-up!

5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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®/™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ‡Dealer Invoice Price of $14,591/$16,308/$24,575/$23,419/$27514 available on all new 2015 Accent 5-Door L Manual/Elantra Sedan L Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Tucson GL FWD Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD models and includes price adjustments of $636/$719/$1,252/$473/$1,313. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,595/$1,695/$1,760/$1,795, fees, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. *The customer prices are those reflected on the dealer invoice from Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. The dealer invoice price includes a holdback amount for which the dealer is subsequently reimbursed by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ΩPrice adjustments of up to $636/$719/$1,252/$473/$1,313 available on all new 2015 Accent 5-Door L Manual/Elantra Sedan L Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Tucson GL FWD Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD models. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2015 Accent 5-Door L 6-speed Manual/Elantra L 6-speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Tucson GL FWD Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD with an annual finance rate of 0%. Weekly payments are $40/$45/$68/$64/$76 for 84 months. $0 down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,595/$1,595/$1,695/$1,760/$1,795, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, and license fees. Financing example: 2015 Accent 5-Door L Manual for $14,591 at 0% per annum equals $40 weekly for 84 months for a total obligation of $14,591. $0 down payment required. Cash price is $14,591. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance example includes Delivery and Destination of $1,595, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance example excludes registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. No Charge Hybrid Offer: °Purchase or lease a new 2015 Sonata Hybrid and you will be entitled to a $2,000 factory to dealer credit. The manufacturer's estimated retail value for Sonata Hybrid Offer is $2,000. Factory to dealer credit applies before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available credits. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. No Charge Hybrid Offer not available on the 2015 Sonata Hybrid Limited or Limited with Technology, or the 2015 Sonata GL Auto, Sport, Sport with Technology, Limited, 2.0T or 2.0T Ultimate. ♦Price of models shown: 2015 Accent GLS Auto/Elantra Limited/Sonata Sport 2.0T/Tucson Limited AWD/Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD are $21,277/$26,927/$32,943/$35,892/$41,577. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,595/$1,695/$1,760/$1,795, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2015 Accent GLS (HWY 6.3L/100KM; City 8.9L/100KM); 2015 Elantra Limited(HWY 6.7L/100KM; City 9.7L/100KM); 2015 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM; City 9.8L/100KM); 2015 Tucson Limited AWD (HWY 9.3L/100KM; City 11.6L/100KM);2015 Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD (HWY 9.8L/100KM; City 12.9L/100KM); are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ΔThe Hyundai Accent/Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among small/compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Initial Quality Study℠ (IQS). Study based on responses from 86,118 new-vehicle owners, measuring 239 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Propriety study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. °‡†♦Ω*Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.